BAMBOO COMICS

地獄行きバス

A BUS TO HELL

明治カナ子

竹書房

BAMBOO COMICS

明治カナ子 KANAKO MEIJI

A BUS TO HELL

「同僚と結婚する」

突然、同棲中の修から結婚報告をされカンちゃん別れを切り出すと、修はカンちゃんと別れるつもりはないとぬかす。とうしても別れたいならば　と修がカンちゃんに出してきた条件は　週間、ふたりで旅行に行くこと。感受性豊かな登場人物たちが織り成す大人気ノリースな収録した最新コンプレックス!!

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地獄行きバス
あぶれそうな家
夏の夢
なにもいらない
夜の女ー
ひみつのはなし
ふれ　と

A BUS TO HELL

明治カナ子のコミックス
大好評発売中!!

感謝趣味

「ぼくの愛人にならないか」
資産家から愛人として
スカウトされた苦学生の未来は　?

Cover Page - Omake Manga - A Bus to Hell

by
=3 Meiji Kanako
WELL, YEAH, THERE'S THAT...
BUT WHAT ELSE?
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT CLEANING AND ORGANIZING (YOUR OWN) CLOTHES...?
GOOD QUALITIES
What are some good qualities of Kan-chan?
Makes me so happy to wear clothes I like...
HIS MOOD IS GOOD IN THE MORNINGS.
That you really like sex!
AH!
Doesn't pay attention to anything he doesn't like.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY INTEREST IN OTHERS.
HE DOESN'T REALLY TALK BADLY ABOUT OTHERS...
NOT THAT, I MEANT ABOUT ME BEING COOL...
HAHAHA...
SORRY, SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO FORGET ABOUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING
ANY OTHER THINGS?
I'M SURE THERE ARE OTHER THINGS ABOUT ME THAT YOU LIKE
C'MON...
OTHER THINGS?
Being a narcissist is his biggest fault.

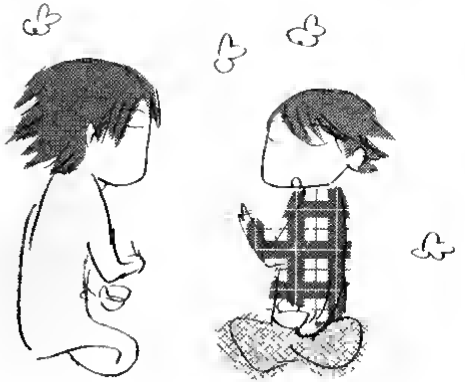
BAMBOO COMICS

地獄行きバス
A BUS TO HELL

REIJIN

明治カナ子

竹書房



A BUS

[illegible]

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A BUS TO HELL
地獄行きバス

Thinking I had nothing to lose, I asked my supervisor for some time off work.
A WEEK?
SURE THING
HUH--
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR YOU TO LET ME OFF THAT EASILY?
IT'S FOR A WHOLE WEEK YOU KNOW
Seriously?
NAH, NOW'S THE BEST TIME FOR IT SINCE THE EXHIBITION RUSH IS OVER WITH
SO?
YOU GOING OVERSEAS?
WE'RE GOING TO A HOT SPRING HERE IN JAPAN
HOT SPRINGS? I'M SO JEALOUS! ENJOY YOURSELVES
I didn't think it would've ended up like this.
HM-HM-HM
THIS ROCKS!
This sucks.
YRRRRRRR

IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME COMING HERE?
REALLY?
WE STILL GET SNOW DURING THIS SEASON FROM TIME TO TIME
rattle
rattle
DID YOU JUST SEE THAT KAN-CHAN? THERE'S STILL SOME SNOW LEFT!
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE THE HOT SPRINGS COVERED IN SNOW
DID YOU HEAR THAT, KAN-CHAN?
rattle
rattle
MAN, THIS IS AWESOME!
I'M IN HEAVEN!
It might be heaven for you,
but it's hell for me.
HUH ?

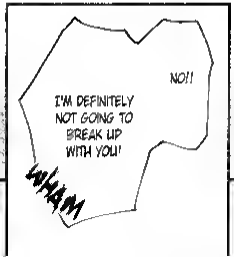
MARRIAGE?
WHOSE?
MINE,
IN JUNE
WITH A CO-WORKER OF MINE
SORRY I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT
IF I HAD KNOWN YOU WERE GOING TO GET MARRIED, I WOULDN'T HAVE BOUGHT THIS COUCH
HUMP
THIS IS REALLY SUDDEN, YOU KNOW
SORRY
BUT
I'M GOING TO GET MARRIED

WELL,
IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE GROWN TO HATE YOU OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
I STILL LIKE YOU LOTS
WHY NOT?
Huh?
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BREAKING UP WITH YOU
WELL, I
ABSOLUTELY AND POSITIVELY
HATE YOU, YOU SON OF A BITCH!
Pssshh!
Ooyama-touge—

SEE? IT'S THAT BUILDING OVER THERE WITH THE BLUE ROOF
WE HAVE THAT PLACE TO OURSELVES FOR A WEEK.

WHOA, THIS IS A REALLY NICE PLACE!
THE VIEW'S AWESOME!

YOU'RE FEELING A A LITTLE CARSICK SINCE YOU WERE READING A MAGAZINE ON THE BUS, RIGHT?
I'LL GO AHEAD AND CLEAN UP FIRST.


NO!! I'M DEFINITELY NOT GOING TO BREAK UP WITH YOU!
WHAM

AN ENTIRE WEEK...
I WONDER IF I CAN ENDURE IT

AND, ANYWAY, DIDN'T I TELL YOU BEFORE WE STARTED DATING?
I HATE BI GUYS.
THAT MEANS YOU'VE BEEN LYING TO ME ALL THIS TIME.
ISN'T IT STRANGE FOR A MAN WHO'S GOT A FIANCEE TO BE FOOLING AROUND BEHIND HER BACK WITH ANOTHER MAN!?
ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME? JUST STOP IT ALREADY!
STILL, I LOVE YOU, KAN-CHAN
EVEN IF YOU SAY WE'VE BROKEN UP, I'LL STALK YOU
I CAN'T GO OUT WITH A LIAR.
YOU LITTLE
BUT...
I'LL EVEN GO TO YOUR WORKPLACE
NO MATTER WHERE YOU RUN TO, I'LL CHASE YOU!

ONE WEEK
BREAK UP WITH ME, NO MATTER WHAT I SAY, THEN
IF YOU SAY YOU STILL WANT TO
GO ON VACATION WITH ME FOR ONE WEEK
♪
♬
UGH...
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS ...?

I'M DONE TIDYING EVERYTHING UP, KAN-CHAN.
I JUST MADE SOME COFFEE...
BU-WAH!?
KAN-CHAN'S ALL HUDDLED UP?
SFX: WHAM
YOU OKAY?
THOSE ARE COTTON PANTS AREN'T THEY?
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU SHOULDN'T EVER BEND THEM MORE THAN 45 DEGREES?
DON'T TOUCH ME!
I CAN STAND UP FINE ON MY OWN
YOU WANT SOME COFFEE?
THERE ARE SANDWICHES TOO
MY STOMACH HURTS.

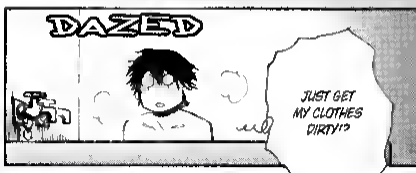
I'M NOT HUNGRY
I CAN ALREADY FEEL MY BROW FURROW-ING
I JUST PULLED UP SOME ONIONS SO HAVE SOME
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR HIS VOICE
I DON'T WANT TO LOOK AT HIS FACE
I DON'T WANT TO BE TOGETHER WITH HIM
THEY'RE REALLY GOOD.
THIS IS REALLY POINTLESS
DON'T WORRY. I BROUGHT YOUR MEDICINE ALONG
SEE?
swish
WHAT? YOU'RE STILL CONSTIPATED?
IT'S MY FAULT
YOU SHOULD'VE JUST COME HERE WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND INSTEAD
I'LL GO HOME TOMORROW AFTER ALL
THIS WHOLE VACATION
IS USELESS
WHY ARE WE DOING THIS EVEN THOUGH WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BREAK UP ?

IF YOU GO HOME TOMORROW, THEN I WON'T KEEP MY PROMISE.
I'LL DEFINITELY STALK YOU, KAN-CHAN.
I'LL EVEN TELL EVERYBODY AT YOUR OFFICE THAT YOU'RE GAY
BLUSH
YOU--
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE THIS KIND OF GUY!
clatter
OSAMU, YOU...
YOU'RE REALLY THE WORST!
AH...!

GRAB
I'LL WASH THEM IMMEDIATELY, SO DON'T WORRY
I ALREADY FILLED THE TUB WITH HOT WATER, SO GET IN
DON'T GET ANEMIC ON ME KAN-CHAN-- TAKE OFF YOUR SHIRT AND PANTS!
dizzy
SLIDE

I...

DID I REALLY...



THAT WAS A MISTAKE I'D NORMALLY NEVER MAKE.
DAMN IT...
I FEEL REALLY WEIRD
THIS IS ALL OSAMU'S FAULT THIS WHOLE VACATION WAS A BAD IDEA FROM THE START

TO MAKE SURE THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN AGAIN

A GAY FRIEND OF MINE INTRODUCED ME TO SOMEONE WHO'D SIGNED AN AGREEMENT SAYING HE WAS A "GENUINE GAY"

WE QUICKLY ENDED UP LIVING TOGETHER.
AND OUR PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY WAS REALLY GOOD
I FOUND THE SOFA WHILE I WAS SHOPPING OVERSEAS RECENTLY, AND WAS ABLE TO FINALLY BUY IT.
BECAUSE WE COULDN'T SEE EYE TO EYE ABOUT FURNITURE, WE HAD TO KEEP TESTING EACH THING WE BOUGHT, FOR A LONG TIME.
WHY DID IT HAVE TO COME TO THIS...?
KAN-CHAN--
HUH?
creak
SHOULD JUST DISAPPEAR.
PEOPLE LIKE YOU--
PEOPLE LIKE YOU
WHAT?
I TOLD YOU TO GET OUT!!!
PLEASE DON'T CRY
DON'T WORRY-- I PUT THEM IN THE WASHER IMMEDIATELY SO THE STAIN WILL COME RIGHT OUT.
GET OUT.

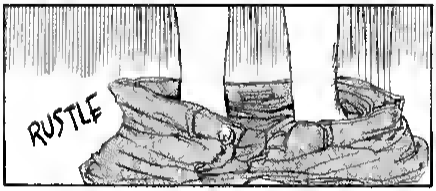
JUST DISAPPEAR FROM MY SIGHT!
I'M BEGGING YOU
DIDN'T WE PROMISE TO MAKE UP WITHIN THIS WEEK?
DON'T
GRIN

YOU OKAY WITH CHANGING INTO A BLUE SHIRT?
SURE
THAT HURTS! LET GO
YOU ALREADY SAID THAT EARLIER
"THE WORST"?
TO THINK THAT YOU WERE THIS KIND OF PERSON! YOU'RE REALLY--
YOU--!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD HIM SAY "ANYTHING IS FINE"
splash
WAIT!
WHATEVER, ANYTHING IS FINE! HURRY UP AND GET OUT!
LIWA--!
"THIS WAS THE FIRST SHIRT I HAD CUSTOM MADE"
"THIS BLUE SHIRT GOES REALLY WELL WITH A LITTLE BROWN. SO KHAKI PANTS LOOK BEST WITH IT"
SINCE CLOTHES ARE HIS LIFE,
HE GETS REALLY MAD AT ME WHEN I PICK CLOTHES THAT DON'T MATCH,
BUT USUALLY

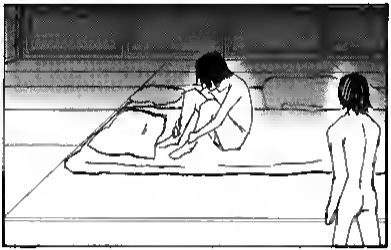
ARE THE BUYERS ALL SUCH BIG FANS OF WESTERN CLOTHING?
Glint
THIS WAS A READY-TO-WEAR ITEM, BUT I PAID FOR IT WITH THE MONEY I MADE FROM MY FIRST PART-TIME JOB
THE BUTTONS ARE WHAT MAKE IT DIFFERENT
WOW!
SEE? THERE'S A NAME ENGRAVED ON THE BUTTON
HMM
SO I HAVE A SPECIAL ATTACHMENT WHEN IT COMES TO CLOTHES
I ALWAYS GOT HAND-ME-DOWNS
ME IN PARTICULAR, BEING THE YOUNGEST OF FOUR CHILDREN,
THAT DEPENDS ON THE PERSON
AND NOT ONLY GOING SHOPPING TOGETHER SOMETIMES BUT TO LEISURELY TAKE A VACATION TOGETHER!
PULL
!
YOU SHOULD GET ATTACHED TO ME TOO, KAN-CHAN
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
PUSH
IDIOT STOP PULLING!
YOU'RE GONNA STRETCH IT!

THIS IS MY FIRST VACATION WITH OSAMU SINCE WE STARTED DATING
IF I HAD PUT IN A LITTLE MORE EFFORT,
MAYBE THINGS WOULDN'T HAVE ENDED LIKE THIS
HOW WAS THE WATER?

WE HAVE TO BE TOGETHER THIS ENTIRE WEEK NO MATTER WHAT, RIGHT?
YEAH
NO MATTER WHAT
YOU HAPPY WITH THE CLOTHES I PICKED OUT?
IT DOESN'T MATTER
SINCE I'LL BE TAKING THEM OFF ANYWAY


RUSTLE

YOU'RE NOT GONNA FOLD YOUR CLOTHES?



I LOVE YOU, KAN-CHAN
JOL
KAN-CHAN
TUG
OBJECTING SO MUCH, KAN-CHAN
IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GET MARRIED
WHY WON'T YOU JUST SAY "DON'T GET MARRIED"?

IT'D BE USELESS TO SAY THAT ANYWAY...
I'VE SAID THAT TO THREE PEOPLE UP UNTIL NOW. AND IN THE END...
IT WAS POINT-LESS.
ALL IT DID WAS MAKE ME MORE SERIOUS...!
...
...
...
-KAN-CHAN
SAY IT TO ME TOO
TELL ME YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GET MARRIED
THAT'S NOT FAIR.
WHY CAN YOU SAY IT TO OTHER PEOPLE BUT NOT TO ME?
EVEN IF I DIED--

I WOULDN'T SAY IT!
I ABSOLUTELY WON'T SAY IT TO YOU!
IF YOU'RE GONNA DO IT, JUST HURRY UP AND DO IT!
YOU'RE HEAVY!
THAT SORT OF PISSES ME OFF
DON'T BLAME ME IF IT HURTS
SFX SLIP JOLT

JOLT
SHUDDER
RELAX MORE
YOU'RE REALLY TIGHT, KAN-CHAN
THRUST
THRUST
LIKE HERE
UWA! THAT'S--
nibble
IF YOU'RE GOING TO IGNORE ME THEN I'LL JUST HIT ALL YOUR WEAK PARTS
gulp
suck
SHUDDER
STOP--
UGH !

SHUDDER
UUH
NHN
IS SLOWLY STARTING TO LOOSEN UP
OH--!
suck
suck
IDIOT--
STOP IT!
AH--!
HIS ASS
burn
I KNOW ALL YOUR WEAK PLACES KAN-CHAN
HAA...
JERK
I EVEN KNOW HOW TO DO IT JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT SEE?
AH--
AH--!

THRUST
AGH...!
YOU LOVE IT WHEN YOU'RE STROKED WHILE BEING ENTERED, DON'T YOU?
THIS IS THE FASTEST WAY TO MAKE YOU COME YOU SAID RIGHT?
creak
Creak
FUUH...
UHN...
SHUDDER
creak
creak
twitch
UUH...!
twitch
YOU FEEL REALLY GOOD, DON'T YOU? YOU'RE AS HARD AS A ROCK.
DON'T HOLD BACK. LET ME HEAR YOUR VOICE.

THRUST
AH...
AH...!
CREAK
WE HAVE REALLY GOOD BODY CHEMISTRY, DON'T WE?
YOUR COCK FEELS SO GOOD RUBBING UP AGAINST MY STOMACH...
MMPH
This...
This is
AMAZING...
the same as mental rape
THE TIP'S LEAKING SO MUCH...
UH

THIS IS SO HARD FOR ME
SO PAINFUL
JUST STOP ALREADY...! PLEASE
CRY
TO MAKE YOU DO SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS TO ME...?
HAVE I DONE ANYTHING
YOU EASILY GAVE UP ON ME
YOU HAVE

"IS IT POSSIBLE TO TRANSPORT THAT SOFA OVERSEAS?"
"WE'RE CURRENTLY OUT OF STOCK FOR THAT SOFA, SO IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME."
"I DON'T MIND TAKE AS LONG AS YOU NEED."
"MY LOVER SEEMS TO REALLY LIKE THAT SOFA, AFTER ALL."
CLING TO ME MORE
THE SAME WAY YOU ARE WITH CLOTHING OR FURNITURE.
BECOME MORE ATTACHED TO ME
IF YOU DO THAT, I WON'T GET MARRIED
I'LL ALWAYS BE YOURS

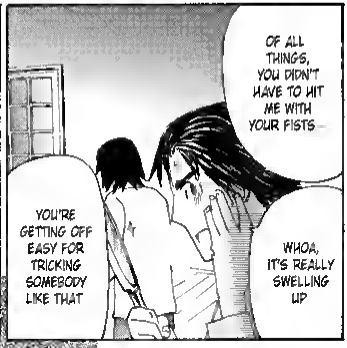
I WON'T!
DON'T GET MARRIED
NO
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!
THAT STINKS OF A LIE
OUR HEARTS ARE PERFECTLY ALIGNED TOO
NOT ONLY ARE OUR BODIES COMPATIBLE,
I LOVE YOU, KAN-CHAN
AND BESIDES

Quiver
AH--
AH
THRUST
HAA
HA.
BE QUIET FOR A SECOND, KAN-CHAN
I'M ABOUT TO COME !
THRUST
BUT AH ...!
AH!
YOUR FIANCEE
CREAK
CREAK
HAA
AH...!
Quiver
gush
SHUDDER
THRUST
NHNN!
HAA
HAA
HAA

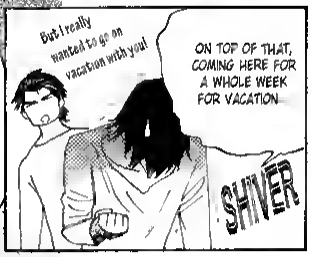
I wanna get in the tub...
Flomp
PHEW
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE DONE THIS
LET'S GO ANOTHER ROUND
I'll do my best
WHAT'S WITH THAT OBVIOUS LIE...?
EVEN IF YOU DON'T DO IT WITH ME,
YOU CAN DO IT WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT?
NOPE
HUH?
I DON'T HAVE ONE
HOW WERE YOU SUPPOSED TO GET MARRIED IF YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND...?
pinch
pinch
pinch
'CAUSE I'M NATURALLY GAY!
HEHE
OOH, NIPPLE.
I MADE HER UP
pinch

BASHED
twitch
THERE'S A WRINKLE IN MY PANTS NOW
Che.
SOMETHING I'VE NEVER DONE

People would normally take it lightly
ANNOYED
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS TRYING TO TRICK YOU!
I MEANT TO PLAY IT OFF AS A LIGHT JOKE BUT YOU ENDED UP BELIEVING ME
DON'T USE SOMETHING THAT'S NO LAUGHING MATTER AS A DAMN JOKE!


OF ALL THINGS, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO HIT ME WITH YOUR FISTS
WHOA, IT'S REALLY SWELLING UP
YOU'RE GETTING OFF EASY FOR TRICKING SOMEBODY LIKE THAT

EVEN SAYING THINGS LIKE "I'LL STALK YOU" OR "I'LL CHASE YOU DOWN WHEREVER YOU RUN TO"... YOU REALLY PLAYED IT WELL
THAT WAS THE TRUTH


But I really wanted to go on vacation with you!
ON TOP OF THAT, COMING HERE FOR A WHOLE WEEK FOR VACATION...
SHIVER

My boyfriend's a lot different from what I thought he was.

The one thing I learned on this trip, is that contrary to how he seems, Osamu is really overbearing.

I'VE ALREADY EXPERIENCED ENOUGH HELL.*
as long as there's love.
Well it's fine,
IF WE TAKE THE BUS JIGOKUDANI IS ONLY AN HOUR AWAY
LET'S GO SIGHTSEEING TOMORROW, KAN-CHAN!
IT'S MORE SCARY
It's like he brushes everything off with a smile

END

*T/N: "JIGOKU" IS THE JAPANESE WORD FOR "HELL."

THE CHAOTIC HOUSE
あふれそうな家

I didn't want to go back home.
I wanted to go somewhere far away
DINNER'S ABOUT READY, KAN-CHAN
clatter
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
OH, JUST A LITTLE CLEANING
YOU'RE ORGANIZING YOUR CLOTHES AGAIN?
YEAH.
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ROOM NOW THAT I'VE PICKED UP SOME CLOTHES FROM THE CLEANERS
WHAT IF YOU JUST USED THE STORE'S STORAGE SERVICES?

I ALREADY AM.
WITH STUFF LIKE COATS, JACKETS, AND HEAVY SWEATERS
WHAT IF YOU JUST THREW SOME AWAY?
THROW AWAY!?
THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE THIS, I PUT ALL MY HEART INTO CHOOSING THEM!!
AH... SORRY
AND YOU'RE TELLING ME TO THROW THEM OUT!?
shock
IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T THROW ANYTHING OUT—
I'M JUST REALLY CAREFUL ABOUT IT
I WONDER ABOUT THAT—
MOSTLY HIS CLOTHES
mumble mumble
スラー
SFX: LINED UP
I HAVE EMPTY DRAWERS IN MY DRESSER, SO JUST PUT THEM IN THERE, KAN-CHAN
OOH? ♡
The food's getting cold.
REALLY? THANKS! SORRY TO BOTHER YOU! ♡
JUST USE THE BOTTOM THREE DRAWERS.
STEP STEP STEP
HM?

THERE'S SOME KIND OF BOX IN HERE
OH, YOU CAN JUST TAKE IT OUT.
pick up
WHAT'S INSIDE IT?
AHH, THAT?
JUST SOME WATCHES I GOT AS CONGRATULATIONS FOR GETTING EMPLOYMENT
IF YOU WANNA USE THEM, I'LL GIVE THEM TO YOU, KAN-CHAN.
I DON'T USE THEM ANYWAY.
open
.....
GEH--
shock
T-T-THIS...
ARE THEY REAL?
WHO KNOWS?
PROBABLY.
MY RELATIVES ARE PRETTY RICH.
Whoooa it's full of designs that older men would like!
ROMAIN AND
PAUL DITISHEIM... AND THIS IS CARTIER!!
WHY'D YOU PUT THEM IN THIS BOX ANYWAY?
THEY WERE BULKY, SO I WANTED TO TOSS THEM.
You can buy a car with this stuff!!
AH WELL...
UH-OH
KAN-CHAN? YOU IN THERE?

shove
shove
THEY DON'T SUIT ME RIGHT NOW!
WHAT-EVER!
WHAT IF YOU USE THEM WHEN YOU BECOME AN OLD MAN?
AND I GET THE FEELING THEY WOULDN'T SUIT ANYONE WHO ISN'T OVER 40...
THEY'RE A BIT TOO CLASSY FOR ME TO USE
EVEN THOUGH THEY DON'T SUIT ME, I'LL END UP WANTING TO USE THEM!
JUST TAKE THE BOX FROM ME AND PUT IT SOMEWHERE I WON'T FIND!
IT'S FINE!
shove
.....
.....
HERE'S THE HIYA-YAKKO *
I FEEL REALLY EXHAUSTED FOR SOME REASON
*T/N: COLD TOFU
YOU REALLY DON'T WANT A LOT OF THINGS, DO YOU?
HEY, OSAMU
HM?
NO
THE LESS, THE BETTER FOR ME

HM...
IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU WANT?
I HAVE ALL THE THINGS THAT I WANT ALREADY.
A SCOOTER.
A JOB.
KAN-CHAN
AND I HAVE MY HEALTH
.....
Shy
HE CAN SAY IT SO STRAIGHT-FOR-WARDLY
BUT YOUR BIRTHDAY'S COMING UP SOON
THINK ABOUT SOMETHING THAT YOU WANT
WELL, THERE IS ONE MORE THING THAT I DO WANT
WHAT? WHAT?
ANOTHER BEER!
NO,
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
SFX: POP

In other words...

HE MEANT THIS...
creak
creak
KAN-CHAN
DOES IT HURT?
NO
thrust thrust
creak
HA
HA
AAH
NOT AT ALL
SO GOOD
slide
NHN
NN

I LOVE YOU, KAN-CHAN
I LOVE YOU, TOO
AAH
creak creak
hmm
hmm
squelch squelch
AH
SPLURT
AAH!

slide
zzz
zzz
zzz
zzz
sl
a a a
HUH?
I'm really happy that Kan-chan is finally able to say "I love you" back to me lately.
LAST NIGHT WAS SO AWESOME ♡
scrub scrub
?
?
WHICH ONE'S THE SHAMPOO?
The bottles are increasing again.
?
?
NOW WHICH ONE'S THE CONDITIONER?
Kan-chan really does have a lot of things.

When I told Kan-chan that my childhood home didn't have a washing machine or dryer,
he drew back
SERI-OUSLY!?
YEAH...
WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY DESKS OR TABLES EITHER
THEN--
HOW'D YOU DO YOUR LAUNDRY...?
WHAT ABOUT MEALS?
YOU JUST ATE ON THE FLOOR?
I DID ALL THE LAUNDRY BY HAND
AND AS FOR MEALS, WE ATE OUT ALMOST EX-CLUSIVELY
UN-BELIEV-ABLE...
THAT'S WHY I'M SO GOOD AT WASHING CLOTHES BY HAND, YOU KNOW...
REMOVING STAINS IS MY SPEC-IALTY!
It's like he was raised in the 1930s or some-thing...
ISN'T THAT A HUGE PAIN IN THE ASS?
NAH
AFTER ALL, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS FOR ME
Before I realized it, my mother had become obsessed with throw-ing things out.

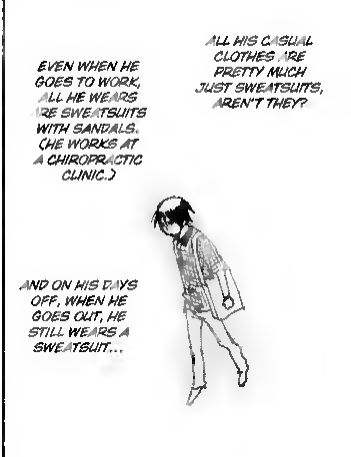
LIVING WITHOUT ANY MATERIAL ITEMS IS HOW HUMANS ARE SUPPOSED TO LIVE
HAVING THINGS JUST MEANS HAVING THINGS YOU LOSE
WHEN PEOPLE DIE, WE CAN'T BRING ANYTHING WE HAVE WITH US TO THE OTHER WORLD
LISTEN, OSAMU
WHY DON'T WE HAVE ANYTHING IN OUR HOUSE?
When Kan-chan heard that, his face went completely pale
WAS WHAT SHE SAID
flustered
HUH?
ISN'T THIS BODY WASH?
scrub
THINKING BACK ON IT, IT'S PRETTY FUNNY
HEH, HEH
PHEW
TOWEL, TOWEL

AH, MAN! I WONDER IF THEY'VE READ MY E-MAIL YET?
I'm sure thankful that there's always a warm and fluffy towel there when I need it
HERE, SEE HOW THE ORDER NUMBER AND DELIVERY NUMBER FOR THIS CUSTOM BAG ARE DIFFERENT?
WHAT'S THE PROB-LEM?
I CONTACTED THEM ABOUT IT. BUT THEY HAVEN'T ANSWERED ME SO BACK YET
ANNOYING!
SFX SHAKE
IT'S NEW! IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'M WEARING IT
AHH? YOU NOTICED?
AH, CHIEF, THAT NECKLACE—
IT'S PART OF AN EARRING SET I GOT AS A PRESENT FROM MY BOYFRIEND—
HAHAHA
RIGHT?
IT LOOKS REALLY GOOD!

.....
ACTUALLY, I HAVE A FRIEND...
WHO'S ALWAYS THERE FOR ME, AND I WANTED TO GIVE HIM A PRESENT...
BUT HE'S NOT THE KIND WHO WANTS ANYTHING
SO I WAS WONDERING WHAT I SHOULD GET FOR SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
HMM...
YOU KNOW, MY BOYFRIEND'S BEEN ASKING ME A LOT RECENTLY IF THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT I WANTED
BUT BACK DURING OUR SCHOOL DAYS HE DID A LOT OF THINGS THAT HE THOUGHT WOULD SURPRISE ME
THAT'S A LITTLE...
WHAT ABOUT A GIFT CARD?
.....
OR SO I THOUGHT
I WAS SO HAPPY
AND ON MY BIRTHDAY, HE GAVE ME A BRAND-NAME HANDBAG
BASICALLY, HE GAVE ME THINGS THAT HE THOUGHT I WOULD USE
School supplies huh.
OR A BRAND-NAME WALLET
THINGS LIKE LIMITED EDITION SNEAKERS
Screech
THAT HAPPENED TO ME, TOO! CHIEF!
GOD! IT WAS SO EMBARRASSING AND MORTIFYING!
BUT AFTER WE BROKE UP AND I TRIED TO SELL THAT HANDBAG, I WAS TOLD THAT IT WAS A FAKE

.....
I know, right?!!
Mmm, so worthless! Even though they said that they were giving us real ones, right?
THE TIFFANY MY EX GAVE ME AS A PRESENT WAS FAKE
YOU TOO, MICCHAN ?!
BUT YOU KNOW?
WHEN I RECEIVED THE PRESENTS, IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF THE PRESENTS THAT I WAS HAPPY.
IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS GETTING IT FROM THE PERSON I LOVED.
IS IT OKAY TO GIVE SOMETHING THAT DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF THOUGHT PUT INTO IT... SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T SUIT HIM?
THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT IT IS IN THE END?
HMM
DOES THIS MEAN
YEAH! EITHER WAY IS A PAIN IN THE ASS
IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE LOVE DYING OUT IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS AND THE FAKE GIFTS.
.....

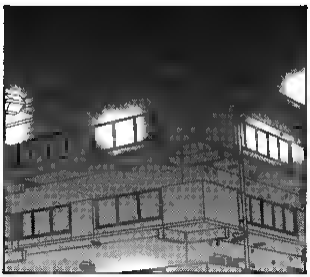
WHEN WE STARTED DATING, I COMPLETELY REDID HIS WARDROBE AND BOUGHT HIM TONS OF THINGS...
Gah
SWEAT-SUITS?


EVEN WHEN HE GOES TO WORK, ALL HE WEARS ARE SWEATSUITS WITH SANDALS. (HE WORKS AT A CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC.)
ALL HIS CASUAL CLOTHES ARE PRETTY MUCH JUST SWEATSUITS, AREN'T THEY?
AND ON HIS DAYS OFF, WHEN HE GOES OUT, HE STILL WEARS A SWEATSUIT...

WHEN DID HE GET ALL THOSE ...?!
BUT HE NEVER WORE ANY OF IT!

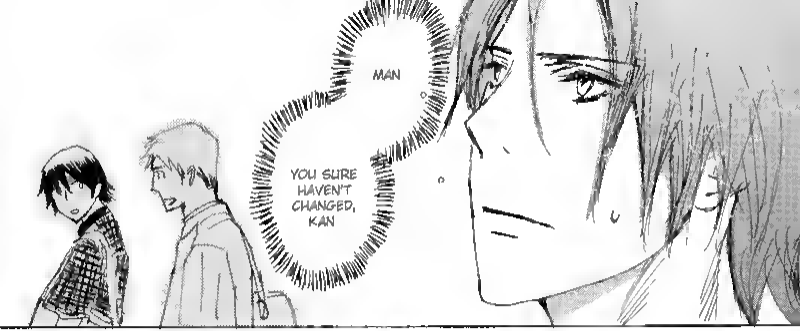
I KNEW IT! IT IS YOU!
--KAN!
WHAT SHOULD I DO TO MAKE HIM GET RID OF THEM...?
Hmm...

HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE!

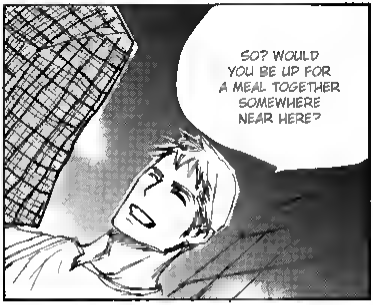


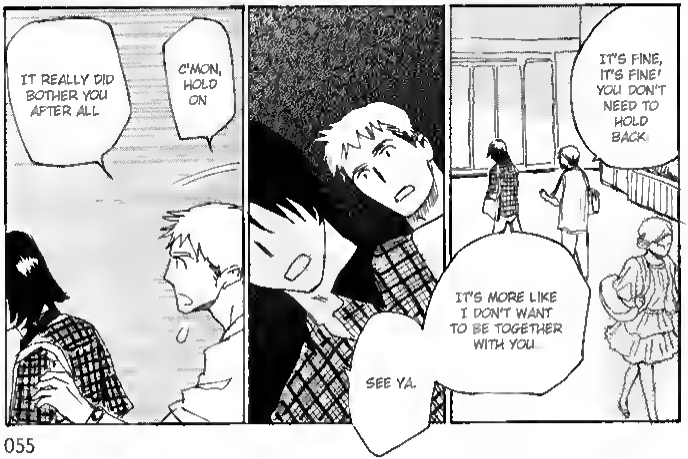
WELCOME HOME, KAN-CHAN...
WE'RE HAVING GYOZA TONIGHT...
haa
haa
clatter
WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU RUN ALL THE WAY HOME?
YEAH

shaaa
DID SOMETHING BAD HAPPEN?
NOT REAL-LY
I'M GONNA TAKE A SHOWER.


MAN
YOU SURE HAVEN'T CHANGED, KAN

YOU GOT MARRIED, SO DON'T YOU HAVE A WIFE NOW?
WHY DON'T YOU HURRY ON HOME?


SO? WOULD YOU BE UP FOR A MEAL TOGETHER SOMEWHERE NEAR HERE?


IT REALLY DID BOTHER YOU AFTER ALL
C'MON, HOLD ON
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE! YOU DON'T NEED TO HOLD BACK!
IT'S MORE LIKE I DON'T WANT TO BE TOGETHER WITH YOU.
SEE YA.

WHEN I GOT MARRIED,
YOU WERE HAVING A REALLY HARD TIME
EVER SINCE, I'VE ALWAYS WORRIED THAT I'D REALLY HURT YOU
.....
HURRY, KAN-CHAN!
AH I'M COMING NOW
THE GYOZA'LL BURN
TA-DAH!!
YEAH
CAN HOLD UP TO 20 GYOZA!
♪
it's cool, but I don't think it's very practical...
THIS NEW PLATE THAT YOU BOUGHT

SOMETHING DID HAPPEN AFTER ALL, DIDN'T IT?
THE MOOD'S A LITTLE DOWN
...
THANKS FOR THE FOOD.
IT'S NOT REALLY ANYTHING THAT IMPORTANT...
I JUST SUDDENLY RAN INTO MY EX-BOYFRIEND ON THE STREET.
THAT'S ALL

THAT'S ALL?
YEAH
WOULD YOU BE IN THIS BAD A MOOD IF THAT WAS TRUE?
HE'S STILL...
USING THE WATCH
THAT I HAD GIVEN
TO HIM AS A PRESENT
.....
WHAT?
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT. YOU'RE MAKING ME FEEL WORSE.
HE JUST CASUALLY CALLED OUT TO GREET ME
THAT GUY ALWAYS WAS THE KIND WHO WAS TOO FULL OF HIMSELF.
ANY-WAY,
THE FOOD'S GONNA GO BAD, SO LET'S JUST PUT AN END TO THIS CONVER-SATION.
The gyoza's all cold.
THAT'S ALL?
"THAT'S ALL" WHAT?
LIKE I SAID...
HIS WEARING A WATCH THAT YOU GAVE HIM AS A MERE PRESENT PUT YOU IN THIS BAD OF A MOOD?

"A MERE PRESENT!?
WHAT!?
blush
YOU SAY IT'S JUST "A MERE PRESENT,"
BUT IT WAS REALLY HARD TO CHOOSE, YOU KNOW!?
JAPANESE ITEMS RELEASE SCHEDULE
Then I went to London and asked friends and acquaintances for favors, but I still couldn't get it. And through some sources, I found it in Paris, and through my haggling prowess, I was able to get it
Phew
GETTING IT WAS
A HUGE, HUGE PROBLEM
COMPARED TO CHOOSING IT
JUST THINKING ABOUT THE VARIOUS THINGS THAT HAPPENED AT THAT TIME...
.....
WEARS ME OUT
AND I'VE ALREADY THROWN AWAY ALL THE PRESENTS I GOT FROM HIM...
KAN-CHAN,
DO YOU STILL LOVE HIM?

I MEAN
FOR YOU TO GET THAT WORKED UP JUST BECAUSE HE STILL HAS SOMETHING YOU GAVE HIM
IS WEIRD
munch munch
WHAAAT !?
BECAUSE
CRACK
Weird?
I MEAN, WITH ME
ALL THE THINGS THAT I GOT FROM MY EX-BOY-FRIENDS
I STILL USE
You trying to pick a fight?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE PERSON ANY-MORE,
THEN USING THEIR GIFTS SHOULDN'T BE SOMETHING YOU'D THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT
IT'S DEFINITELY WEIRD
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE THINGS YOU GOT FROM YOUR EX-BOYFRIENDS
DON'T PLAY DUMB
WHAT?
Something Weird?
AND ANYWAY, YOU SAID SOMETHING WEIRD JUST NOW, DIDN'T YOU?
IT'S NOT WEIRD

YOU'RE TRYING TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, AREN'T YOU?
I KNEW IT! YOU STILL LOVE HIM!
I SAID, I DON'T!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?! YOU'RE THE ONE THAT CAN'T FORGET ABOUT THOSE GUYS YOU BROKE UP WITH!
I'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THEM.
I WONDER ABOUT THAT
I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU!
I'M NOT THE KIND OF PERSON THAT GETS ATTACHED TO MATERIAL THINGS!
WE'RE REALLY
YEAH
EXACT OPPOSITES, HUH.

I LOVE YOU, TOO
STILL,
I LOVE KAN-CHAN.
YEAH.
IS IT GOOD?
.....

I'VE REALLY GROWN TO LIKE THAT STRAIGHT-FORWARDNESS OF OSAMU'S, BUT
WE DON'T HAVE ANY HOBBIES IN COMMON,
KAN-CHAN...
WHAT IS IT ABOUT ME THAT OSAMU LIKES...?
AND OUR PERSONALITIES ARE POLAR OPPOSITES.
AAH...
thrust
YOU OKAY?
AH.
NN.
YEAH...
creak
creak
creak
creak

haa
haa
haa
thrust
OSAMU SEEMS LIKE HE'D BE OKAY EVEN IF IT WAS SOME OTHER GUY.
thrust
haa
creak
thrust
haa
aah
haa
creak
heh
creak
ah
ha
ha
ha
thrust
ah
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME.
Ahh
SFX: SPLURT
I LOVE YOU, TOO
I LOVE YOU,
KAN-CHAN...
I CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE BUT OSAMU.

I'll always feel this way about him...
I LOVE YOU, OSAMU.
ha
ha
haa
ha
clatter
clatter
Just like this,
clatter
clatter
This is the subway train that goes to school.
Oh, it's a train.

My grandma told me that my mother became like that because of the shock of my dad dying
JUST ENDURE IT FOR A BIT, AMU-CHAN
I don't want to go back home
I want to try going until the last stop
I want to go somewhere far
The only appliance that we had was a telephone
No TV, no refrigerator, no stereos
I'M HOME...
Right now, there's nothing at home
I'M HUNGRY...
...WELCOME HOME
I'M HOME, MOM

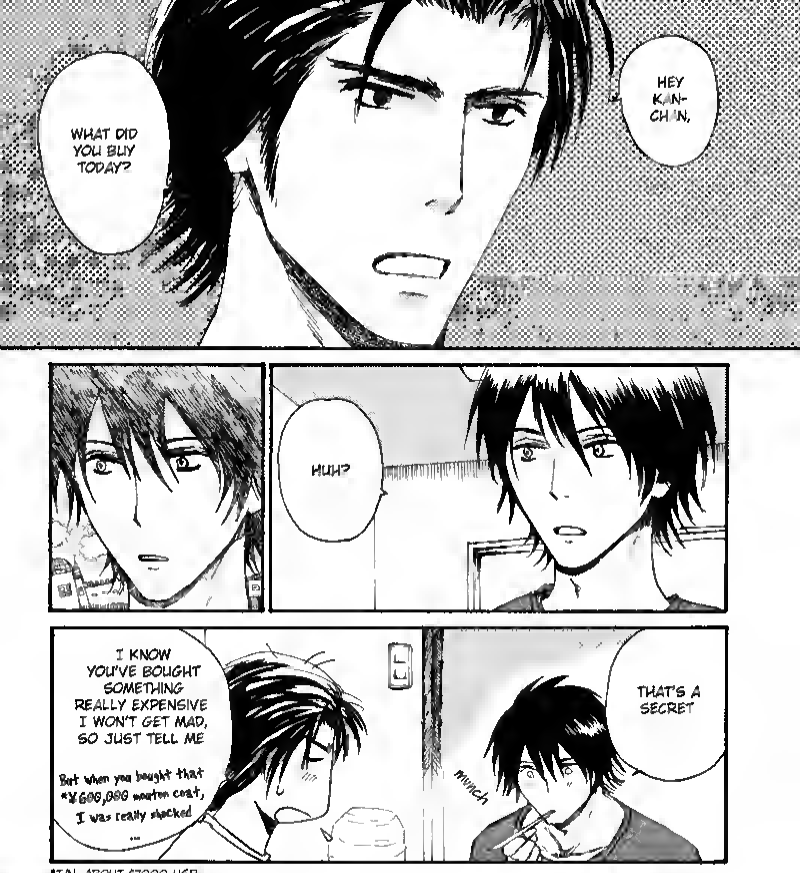
I wanted her to look at me more
Much, much closer
I wanted her to look someplace closer
The inside of my house was barren
Just like she did before
I WONDER
WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE FOR DINNER
WANT TO GO GET SOME FRIED RICE?
I SEE
My mom was always just looking at some far-away place
A house full of things was nice.

Being with this person
gives me so much peace of mind.
YOU'RE GONNA THROW THOSE AWAY? THAT'S SUCH A WASTE
EVEN THOUGH I CAN STILL WEAR THEM...
I'LL BUY YOU NEW ONES FOR YOUR BIRTH-DAY!
ALL THE ITEMS YOU GOT FROM YOUR EX-BOY-FRIENDS?
IS THIS ALL OF IT?
YEAH
SWEATSUITS
EVEN THOUGH YOU TAKE GOOD CARE OF CLOTHING THIS IS TOO CRUEL, KAN-CHAN
Damn it...
I COULDN'T GET HIM TO THROW OUT ALL HIS SWEAT-SUITS...
THIS AND THAT ARE TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THINGS!
END

I'M HOME
CLICK
ただいま
夏の夢
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM
WELCOME HOME, KAN-CHAN
YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE TODAY—
URGH—
From time to time Kan-chan comes home with this really satisfied look on his face like he's just had sex
I'M STARVING. WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
When that happens it usually means

Dazed
HE BOUGHT SOMETHING BIG!
GRILLED IWANA* AND A PORK SHABU-SHABU SALAD ...
WOW, THAT SOUNDS GREAT.
IT'S REALLY A BIG HELP THAT YOU LIKE TO COOK, OSAMU.
I CAN ALWAYS LEAVE IT UP TO YOU TO COOK DELICIOUS FOOD.
THANK YOU.

*T/N: IWANA, KNOWN AS CHAR IN THE U.S., IS A FRESHWATER FISH RELATED TO TROUT AND SALMON.


HEY KAN-CHAN,
WHAT DID YOU BUY TODAY?
HUH?
I KNOW YOU'VE BOUGHT SOMETHING REALLY EXPENSIVE I WON'T GET MAD, SO JUST TELL ME
But when you bought that *¥600,000 marten coat, I was really shocked ...
munch
THAT'S A SECRET
I WANNA SURPRISE YOU, SO I'M NOT telling.
.....
SWALLOW
LIKE I SAID
WELL,

*T/N ABOUT $7000 USD

Daze
IT'S SOMETHING REALLY GOOD THOUGH...
WHY YOU...
FOR HIM TO MAKE THAT KIND OF FACE AT ANY OTHER TIME THAN WHEN WE'RE HAVING SEX...
Grr
REALLY TURNS ME ON A LITTLE ACTUALLY.
Grr!...

OSAMU
YOU WERE THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING DIRTY JUST NOW, WEREN'T YOU?
BUT WE CAN'T
THE AC IN OUR ROOM IS ACTING UP
AND ANYWAY,
I DON'T LIKE BEING ALL STICKY AND COVERED IN SWEAT
.....
Aah Aah
STICKY AND COVERED IN SWEAT
Steamy
.....
SWEATY
SWEATY
BUT
I DON'T MIND
IF IT'S ONLY A LITTLE BIT...
.....

Fawn
LIKE KISSING?
YEAH
WHAT CAN WE DO THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED A "LITTLE BIT," KAN-CHAN?
SO HOT.
Silence
Whuff
IT'S HOT, OSAMU
AH—
I KNOW
THAT'S WHY IT'S ONLY KISSING
Kiss
Rustle
YOU CAN JUST IGNORE THE CHEST AND STUFF...
BUT THE WINDOW'S OPEN..
BUT WHY? YOU LIKE IT WHEN I TEASE YOUR NIPPLES
...NHN!
Lick Lick

SHUDDER
HAAH.
Rub Rub
HAA.
HAA—
O..
OSA-MU...
AAH.
I KNOW
RUB RUB
YOU WANT ME TO PAMPER YOU DOWN HERE TOO, RIGHT?
Slobber
SO HE WANTS HIS MOUTH OCCUPIED, HUH?
OKAY, OKAY
NHN ...
OH!
N-NO
I WON'T BE ABLE ... TO HOLD MY VOICE ...

NHN ...
NHN ...
N-HAA ...
SNUGGLE
HEHE
I CAN'T HOLD BACK MY VOICE, SO THE WINDOW
T-THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
SO CUTE! HE'S SO LUSTFUL!
NHN.
NN—
NHN ...
EVEN HIS HIPS ARE BEGINNING TO MOVE—
COMPARED TO THAT FACE HE HAD ON EARLIER, THIS IS A LOT MORE EROTIC
I can live with this!

EVEN HIS ASS IS STARTING TO GET ALL WET.
.....
Rub Rub
JUST MY FINGERS WON'T BE ENOUGH FOR YOU, RIGHT KAN-CHAN?
Fondle Fondle
Y-
YEAH
I'M AT MY LIMIT TOO
Thump Thump Thump
Slurp
AH ...!
Thump Thump Thump

THRUST
Shudder
Nhn ...!
HAA.
Creak
HAA ...
Creak
HAA.
HAA ...
NAA ...!
THRUST
AHH.
AAH.
I'M GONNA START MOVING, KAN-CHAN
SUID-DEN-LY..
SO DEEP ...
HAA ...
HAA ...

Clench
THRUST
HE HE
YOU'RE SWEATING SO MUCH, KAN-CHAN
HAA
IT'S HOT ...!
Quiver
WE'RE ONLY GETTING STARTED.
Quiver
NHN ...!
Slurp Slurp
Thrust
Thrust
Thrust
MFPH.
MFPH.
NHN.
AH.
AH.
HAA.
O-OSAMU ...

Plop
AH—
NAH ...
Thrust
Thrust
LET'S CHANGE POSI-TIONS.
KAN-CHAN
AAH.
AAH
Thrust
AAH.
HA
HA
HAA
HAA
Drips
!
Deep Thrust
AAH—
I WANNA SEE
YOUR COMING FACE ...
Shudder
Twitch Twitch
N-HAA ...
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT READY TO COME
PUMP
PUMP
AAH.
YOU'RE TWITCH-ING LIKE CRAZY
AAH ...!
PUMP

Splurt
AAH ...!
I'M ABOUT TO COME TOO
NN ...
NHN. NHN.
STROKE
AAH.
STROKE
AAH.
STROKE
Dry
Gush
Gush
.....
...!

SO HOT~~~
HAA
HAA
I REALLY LET MY VOICE OUT

I ALREADY BOUGHT ONE

LET'S GO BUY A NEW AC ON THE WEEKEND

UH, YEAH.
SUR-PRISED?
IT WAS THE LAST ONE LEFT FOR A BARGAIN.

Huh?
I BOUGHT ONE ON MY WAY HOME FROM THE APPLIANCE STORE.

BUT THEN WHY'D HE HAVE TO KEEP IT A SECRET?
THAT SO
WAS THIS THAT "BIG THING" HE BOUGHT?
Boom
MAN, SO HOT I'M GONNA GO TAKE A SHOWER.

I PUT IT IN MY BAG, SO TAKE IT OUT YOURSELF.
ALL RIGHT.
IS THERE A PAMPHLET FOR THE AC?
YEAH, I GOT ONE.
GASP
I DON'T REALLY MIND THE SWEAT, BUT I GUESS IT'S BETTER COOLER . .
Rummage
Rummage
Make Sure You Don't Fail - MY HOME
A Hundred Things To Know Before You Buy a Home
How To Take Out a Loan
Now's The Time To Buy a Home!
Mitsubishi Air Conditioners
Pearless

FROZEN
KAN-CHAN ...
DON'T TELL ME YOU ...?
Signed a home contract without telling me...!? Or even an apartment lease!
We'll Help You Make Your Dreams Come True
Oneki Homes
Flutter
SUMMER JAMBOREE
¥ 300
RUSTLE
ZAAA
Fufu.
ONCE SUMMER COMES AROUND, I REALLY WANNA BUY A HOUSE~

END

DON'T NEED ANYTHING BUT YOU
なにもいらない

I WANT TO GIVE SOMETHING IN RETURN, BUT MY PARTNER ISN'T THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WANTS MUCH.
GOCHISOU-SAMA.*
IT USUALLY BOTHERS ME WHEN I RECEIVE SOMETHING.
*T/N A TRADITIONAL PHRASE OF THANKS SAID AFTER A MEAL.
REALLY? THEN I'LL HAVE TO MAKE IT AGAIN.
SIP
*T/N A TYPE OF SPICE
Likes *star anise.
CLATTER
THIS FRIED DISH WAS REALLY GOOD.
I'M REALLY GRATEFUL THAT OSAMU LIKES COOKING SO MUCH.
That fried fish salad was really good too.
OH YEAH, WE HAVE SOME GRAPES FOR DESSERT.
A REGULAR CUSTOMER DOWN AT THE CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC GAVE US A WHOLE BUNCH.
THIS IS JUST MY SHARE.
HUGE, ISN'T IT?
GRAPES ?

*T/N A PREFECTURE IN CENTRAL HONSHU THAT IS THE TOP PRODUCER OF GRAPES.

NOPE.
WHEN YOU RECEIVE THINGS LIKE THIS
DO YOU DO ANYTHING IN RETURN TO SHOW YOUR THANKS?
Chiropractor
I GIVE THEM THEIR TREATMENT LIKE ALWAYS, AND THAT'S THAT

Osamu's birthday is near the end of summer.

It still feels like it's not enough.
munch munch
Grapes have a ton of antioxidants, so they help with recovery from fatigue.
He only wears this and the other tracksuits that he has.
Even though I gave him this tracksuit as a present
I WANT TO GIVE HIM SOMETHING MUCH BETTER, BUT
AFTER WE'RE DONE EATING, WANNA GO FOR A WALK, KAN-CHAN ?
IT'S A FULL MOON TONIGHT
SURE, I GUESS
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD GIVE HIM.
WHOA- SO BRIGHT !
THIS STREET IS QUITE RURAL, AND THERE AREN'T THAT MANY BUILDINGS AROUND, SO YOU CAN REALLY SEE THE STARS
WELL...

LET'S GO OVER THERE, KAN-CHAN.
EVEN THOUGH THIS GUY'S LIKE THIS NOW, HE GREW UP WEARING LINEN, DIDN'T HE?
Every-day track-suit
HIS TASTES SURE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH WHERE HE GREW UP,
*T/N: SUGINAMI WARD IS ONE OF THE 23 MUNICIPALITIES THAT TOGETHER MAKE UP THE CORE AND THE MOST POPULOUS PART OF TOKYO.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, SUGINAMI* ISN'T A RURAL PLACE, YOU KNOW...
REALLY?
?
I'VE NEVER BEEN AROUND HERE BEFORE.
IS THERE SOMETHING OVER THERE?
GRABS
NOBODY EVER COMES HERE.
I found it the other day!

Step Step Step
Hehe.
.....
Yeah, you bet it is!
ISN'T THIS PERFECT FOR A DATE?
.....
.....
I DON'T MIND...
IF IT'S ONLY A LITTLE ...
WHEN YOU SAY "A LITTLE," YOU MEAN LIKE KISSING?
YEAH.

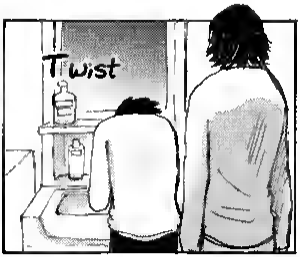
Yaawn
GOOD MORNING.
MORN-IN'
.....
WE STILL HAVEN'T OFFICIALLY DONE ANY OF THE ORDERS YET, THOUGH
We'll be deciding on that at the meeting today
THE NUMBER OF ORDERS DOESN'T EVEN COMPARE TO THE SPRING-SUMMER EXHIBITION THIS YEAR, DOES IT?
YEAH.
IS THIS THE ORDER FORM FROM YESTERDAY'S EXHIBITION?
WE'RE GETTING PREPARED, BECAUSE IT'S A BIG SELLER
THE FABRIC HAS CHANGED, BUT IT'S REALLY THE SAME DESIGN AS BEFORE
It's one of our top sellers
For colors, let's go with grey and either green or beige
WHY'S THAT? LAST TIME WE GOT LOTS OF ORDERS FOR THIS COAT

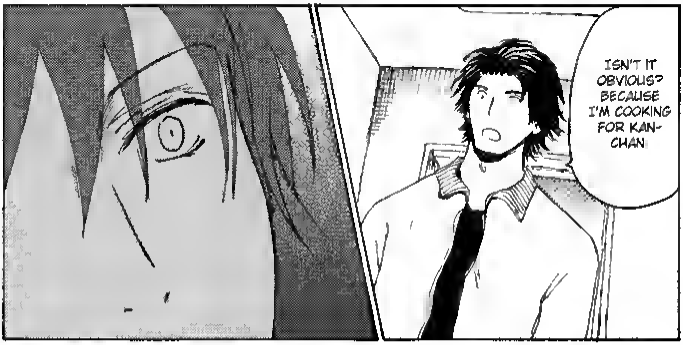
Glint
IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA BUY A COAT IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANTED TO BUY?
there aren't any others that quite match up to it
Although the only difference from last year's coat is the inner lining
THAT REMINDS ME-- REMEMBER THAT COAT WITH THE SAME DESIGN THAT I WAS EYEING?
I'VE DECIDED NOT TO BUY IT
THAT'S THE ONE THING I DON'T GET
BUT PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, THE TURNOUT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER IF THEY'D DONE PROPER MARKETING
Even the ceiling is standard
BUT YOU SURE ARE LUCKY I'M TRYING TO SAVE UP SOME MONEY TO GO ON VACATION, SO I CAN'T GO SHOPPING EVEN IF I WANT TO
YOU HAVE A CLEAR PICTURE OF WHAT KIND OF BOOTS YOU WANT
THAT JUST MEANS
HMM, WELL I WAS THINKING OF GETTING SOME BOOTS, BUT
THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY-THING LATELY THAT MADE ME SAY, "THIS IS IT!"
A VACA-TION-!
YEAH, I SUDDENLY WANTED TO GO SOMEWHERE
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I DUG DEEP AND PAID FOR MY OWN TRIP OVERSEAS

A VACATION...
HOW ABOUT
GOING TO A HOT SPRING?
SPEAKING OF WHICH, HE EVEN WENT AS FAR AS TRICKING ME AND MAKING ME GO TO THE HOT SPRING WITH HIM...
I DO LIKE HOT SPRINGS
Go with me on a vacation for a week!
IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA
人気NO.1
Iname Travel

I'M HOME
Wel-come home~♡
WE'RE HAVING BEEF STEW TONIGHT.
OOH?
IT'S BEEN COOKING EVER SINCE LUNCH TIME
BOIL BOIL
I MADE IT MYSELF! ♡
WOW, IMPRES-SIVE
YEP.
YOU SPENT YOUR WHOLE DAY OFF JUST COOKING?
His day off today
YOU SURE DO LIKE COOKING, DON'T YOU, OSAMU?
YEP.
Wash
ZAAA
Wash
Gurgle
Gurgle
ACTUALLY, I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN IT ABOUT 20%

HUH?
THEN WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER 80%?


Twist


ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? BECAUSE I'M COOKING FOR KAN-CHAN

IT'S POINTLESS IF YOU DON'T HAVE SOMEONE TO COOK FOR.
IT'S NICE FROM TIME TO TIME BUT
.....

W-WHAT?
WHAT, YOU DIDN'T REALIZE? IF IT WERE JUST FOR ME, I WOULDN'T BOTHER MAKING SUCH EXTRAVAGANT DISHES

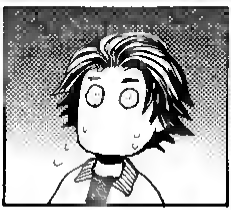
Shiver
OCCASIONALLY
I FEEL LIKE THE BALANCE
IT'S GOOD ...
NO, RATHER,
IT'S ONLY A SMALL AND VAGUE FEELING, BUT
HAS SHIFTED ...
WHEN IT COMES TO EXPRESSING AFFECTION,
COMPARED TO OSAMU I DON'T SHOW IT MUCH
I think
THERE ARE SOME MELON TARTS IN THE FRIDGE TOO
MELON TARTS

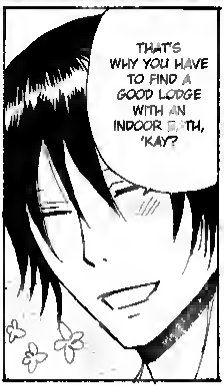
I HAVE SOMETHING TOO—!
EH?
Gasp
I DO, BUT...
HUH? WEREN'T THEY SOMETHING THAT YOU LIKED, KAN-CHAN?
How far is he planning to make me feel the gap?!
HE'S EVEN GONE AS FAR AS DESSERT ...?!
IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT
YOU LIKE HOT SPRINGS, DON'T YOU?
I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD GO TOGETHER OR SOMETHING...
I HAVE TIME OFF WORK NEXT MONTH
Fine Inns
Stay in one of Japan's famous inns!
HERE, TAKE A LOOK
IT'LL BE MY TREAT OF COURSE
JUST CHOOSE WHICHEVER LODGE YOU WANT TO GO TO

Ehe, somehow, I'm so happy that I can't believe it
For real, Kan-chan?!
Noo waaay!!
I love chest-nuts
YUMMY
CHOMP
PHEW
I'M SO GLAD HE LIKES IT.
Melon Tart
LOOK THEY'RE ALL "SPE-CIALTY" LODGES
LET'S LOOK FOR CHEAPER ONES.
BUT ALL THE LODGES HERE ARE REALLY EXPENSIVE, KAN-CHAN
I SAID IT'S FINE—
SINCE WE'RE GOING, WE MIGHT AS WELL GO SOMEWHERE NICE
FINE MY ASS! IT'D COST MORE THAN 100,000 YEN* TO GO TO ONE OF THESE PLACES TO-GETHER!

T/N: OVER $1,000 USD.

IT'S OKAY, REALLY.
I'M NOT GOING TO BUY A COAT THIS YEAR, SO WE HAVE SOME MONEY LEFT OVER.
SO JUST PICK WHATEVER YOU WANT, AND WE'LL GO WITH THAT.




THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE TO FIND A GOOD LODGE WITH AN INDOOR BATH, 'KAY?

YEAH.
WHEN YOU SAID "NOT GOING TO BUY A COAT"...
YOU...
WERE TALKING ABOUT YOURSELF?

GASP
KAN-CHAN, DON'T TELL ME ...

OSAMU
AND IT WAS COLD, SO MAYBE YOU GOT A COLD OR SOMETHING...
I MEAN... WE TOOK A WALK REALLY LATE LAST NIGHT...
HUH?
THAT YOU'RE SICK... OR SOMETHING...?
AFTER OUR WALK YESTERDAY, WE WENT AT IT LIKE RABBITS. DO YOU HONESTLY THINK I'D GET A COLD AFTER THAT...?
AH...
Feels Ohh so good.
Haa Haa
I CAN'T ANYMORE...
Splash Splash
Splurt
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT
That did happen
AS IF I COULD GET A COLD AT A TIME LIKE THIS
ESPECIALLY SINCE I'M SO BUSY
GLOOM

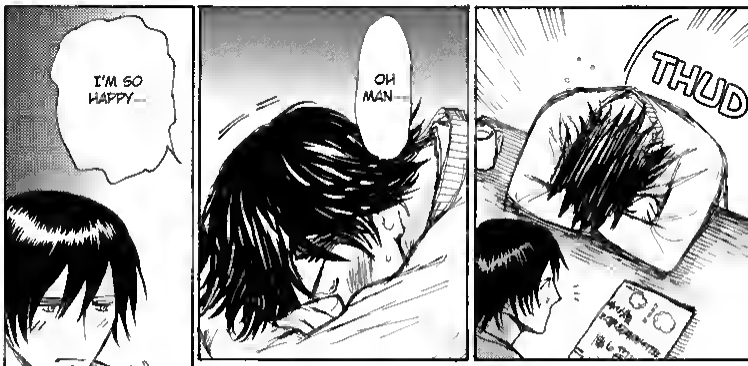
IF YOU'RE FINE, THEN WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO BUY A COAT?!
SHOUT
IT DOESN'T MATTER, DOES IT?! I ALREADY HAVE SO MANY COATS THAT ONE LESS WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
SHOUT
BUT THEN YOU WOULDN'T BE KAN-CHAN—
A KAN-CHAN THAT DOESN'T HAVE MATERIALISTIC DESIRES IS REALLY TOO WEIRD!
Hah...
JUST COME OUT WITH IT AND TELL ME YOUR REASON—
THIS ...
THIS IDIOT...
SLAM
Fine, forget it!
HE JUST RAISED THE BAR.

—I'VE NEVER FELT ANY LOVE FROM YOU
I NEVER SAID THAT WHAT'RE YOU GETTING SO WORKED UP ABOUT—?
IF THAT'S HOW YOU'RE GOING TO SAY IT, THEN I'LL DO WHATEVER I WANT!
I felt like I had too much pride when it came to whomever I was going out with.
In the past,
YOU CAN'T FEEL THE LOVE? THEN WHAT ABOUT YOU?!
I WOULD RECEIVE AFFECTION FROM THEM,
BUT I NEVER GAVE ANYTHING IN RETURN.
ALWAYS...

IN THE END, THAT GAP ALWAYS BECAME TOO LARGE FOR ME
OR RATHER
BAD AT CONFRONTATIONS, SO
TO MAKE UP FOR THAT, I'D ALWAYS GIVE THEM RARE AND LUXURIOUS GIFTS
I REALLY SUCK AT
SHOWING GRATITUDE TO MY PARTNERS WITH MY WORDS
KAN-CHAN?
BUT WHENEVER IT COMES TO THIS GUY,
WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL AFTER ALL...?
HE ALWAYS, ALWAYS
RAISES THE BAR WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM.
AND FOR ME, WHO AM NO GOOD AT THESE THINGS BY NATURE, THE BAR IS TOO HIGH.
.....

BUT THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS JUST SAY IT...
IT'S NOT...
LIKE...
I HAVE AN EXCUSE OR SOME-THING ...
I JUST WANTED TO GO TO A HOT SPRING WITH YOU...
... THAT'S ALL THERE WAS TO IT...
WHAT I WANTED MOST WAS

THE KIND OF GUY WHO DOESN'T EXPECT ANYTHING.

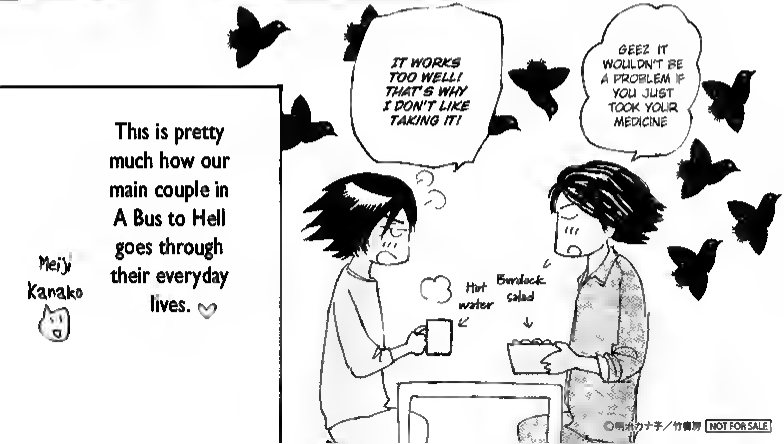

I'M SO HAPPY—
OH MAN—
THUD

Timid
Timid
YOU WANT TO DO IT, DON'T YOU OSAMU ?
THUMP
OF COURSE !
AFTER HEARING YOU SAY SOMETHING THAT CUTE, WHO WOULDN'T WANT TO DO IT?!
BUT WE CAN'T! WE DID IT YESTERDAY, SO WE HAVE TO THINK ABOUT YOUR HEAL—
IF IT'S ONLY A LITTLE
I DON'T MIND
Laugh
Blush
Yeah, yeah, a little~
A LITTLE

Hehe.
Let's choose a place together~
MAYBE BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN TOO BUSY LATELY.
Truthfully, I might be getting sick, just like Osamu said.
BUT WHEN I SEE OSAMU'S SMILE, MY DESIRE FOR ANYTHING ELSE VANISHES.
SINCE THE TIMING'S GOOD, I'M GOING TO ENJOY MYSELF AT THE HOT SPRINGS UNTIL I CAN'T HELP BUT GET WELL.
What about here? Their food is really good
THIS'LL PROBABLY END UP BEING A PROBLEM FOR MY JOB, BUT
AS SOMEONE SAID LONG AGO, "WATER FROM KUSATSU" CAN CURE WHAT EVEN A DOCTOR CAN'T."
END

*T/N: A TOWN NORTHWEST OF TOKYO WITH HOT SPRINGS FAMOUS FOR THEIR THERAPEUTIC HEALTH BENEFITS

Kan-chan rarely ever goes overseas for business, so...
I'M HOME~!
WELCOME HOME!
HOW WAS IT?
THE JOB WAS SO-SO
That's why, when he gets home,
there are never any lovey-dovey things going on,
because he ends up becoming constipated on his business trips.
THAT FACE ...
THAT MEANS HE HASN'T GONE IN SEVEN DAYS.
Grim
Pale skin
Bad mood


This is pretty much how our main couple in A Bus to Hell goes through their everyday lives.
Meiji Kanako
IT WORKS TOO WELL! THAT'S WHY I DON'T LIKE TAKING IT!
GEEZ IT WOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM IF YOU JUST TOOK YOUR MEDICINE
Hot water
Burdock salad

©明治カナ子／竹書房 NOT FOR SALE

My cousin, Kishi, would often read books to me when I was little.
THE QUEEN OF NIGHT PASSES THROUGH FORESTS AND CROSSES OCEANS,
AND IN EVERY COUNTRY, SHE COMES AND SPIRITS CHILDREN AWAY.
SHE PUTS THOSE CHILDREN INTO LARGE JARS AND POURS IN HOT OIL TO KILL THEM.
THEY BECOME HER APPETIZERS.
But I have no idea why he would only read me scary stories...
Queen of the Night
MY MOTHER MADE THIS BOOK FOR ME
Queen of the Night
He would wait until I was about to burst into tears,
CAN YOU SLEEP BY YOURSELF?
DO YOU WANT ME TO SLEEP WITH YOU, TERU?
UH-HUH UH-HUH
and then he would help me out.
I was always grateful to Kishi for sleeping by my side,
Queen of the Night
WITHOUT KNOWING THAT THE PERSON I WAS SLEEPING NEXT TO WAS ACTUALLY THE QUEEN OF NIGHT

QUEEN OF NIGHT
夜の女王(クイーン)

AHH——————!!
RING
.....
RING
flinch
HELLO?
Teru? Breakfast is ready.
I'M COMING NOW
OH, DID KISHI STOP BY?
I INVITED HIM BY PHONE A LITTLE WHILE AGO, BUT HE SAID HE STILL HAD SOME WORK LEFT TO DO
IT'S A LITTLE LONELY, ISN'T IT? EVER SINCE HE MOVED OUT, HE HASN'T EVEN COME BY ONCE
MAKE SURE YOU TELL HIM THAT HE SHOULD DROP BY FROM TIME TO TIME SINCE WE LIVE RIGHT NEXT TO HIM, OKAY?
OKAY.

EVEN THOUGH I STILL HEAR HIM SCREAM IN MY DREAMS
KISHI MOVED INTO THE APARTMENT RIGHT ACROSS FROM OURS ABOUT FOUR MONTHS AGO, BUT
HE HASN'T COME TO SEE US
NOT EVEN ONCE
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A PEEPING TOM
OH, HIRO-KUN
MY NAME'S "HIRA," YOU KNOW
YOU'RE SUCH A LIAR. YOU SAID IT BEFORE, DIDN'T YOU? THAT THERE WAS AN OJI-SAN ON THAT STREET AH
WANT SOME?
I SAW A BIRD
WHAT WERE YOU LOOKING AT? THE NEIGHBOR OJI-SAN?*
THIS IS GOOD
NAH, NO THANKS

*T/N A SOMETIMES IMPOLITE TERM FOR AN OLDER MAN, LITERALLY, "UNCLE."

Rustle
YOU SAID YOU DON'T LIKE SWEET STUFF, RIGHT?
NOW, I DON'T.
I USED TO SUCK CONDENSED MILK OUT OF A STRAW BACK IN THE DAY THOUGH
WOULDN'T YOU GET A TON OF CAVITIES FROM THAT?
.....
OH YEAH, LET ME PAY IN ADVANCE
¥¥
IT'S FINE
YOU'RE A REGULAR CUSTOMER, SO
JUST THE WAY IT IS —
AAH ...

I PROMISED I'D BE YOUR PILLOW ON THE WEEKENDS, DIDN'T I?
Creak
WELL, YEAH
I JUST THOUGHT I SHOULD MAKE SURE OF IT...
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO STAY OVER TONIGHT TOO, RIGHT, HIRO-KUN?
IT'S "HIRA."
...AND ISN'T IT ALWAYS LIKE THAT?
YOU DON'T NEED TO ASK ME EVERY TIME...
HNN
Kuh
Ruh
DO YOU GIVE THIS OVERNIGHT SERVICE TO ANY OTHER CUSTOMERS?
NU-UH
AND ANYWAY, I MOSTLY MEET UP WITH THEM AT HOTELS
HMM

SORRY
FORGIVE ME?
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME SERVICE, SO
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TELL YOU MY NAME, YOU KEEP MISTAKING IT.
ABOUT WHAT?
"... BUT YOU'RE THE MOST FORGET-FUL."
PRESS
NHN...
NH

YOU CAN STOP
Suck
NHN ...
Twitch
Twitch
WHY?
IF YOU DO THIS THEN WE WON'T KNOW WHICH ONE OF US IS REALLY THE CUSTOMER
AAH!
THE ONE WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE DOING THE SERVICE IS ME, RIGHT?
Shudder
AAH... AAH...
AAH!
IT'S FINE SINCE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY PILLOW, JUST LIE THERE...
Nuzzle
TENSE

AAH.
AAH.
HAA
Sqish
NHN
Haa
HAA.
Thrust
NHN ...!
NHN
Thrust
Thrust
Rub Rub
AAAH ...!
AAH
SHUDDER
SHUDDER

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
NOTHING, REALLY
MAKE SURE YOU CLOSE THE CURTAINS BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP. YOU FORGET ABOUT THAT SOMETIMES.
'KAY.
I PUT A LOT OF STUFF IN THE REFRIGERATOR, SO MAKE SURE YOU EAT IT TOMORROW, OKAY?
I GOT IT, I GOT IT.
TERU?
IF THE TRADER DROPS BY, REMEMBER TO OFFER HIM SOME TEA.
YEAH, I KNOW.
WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, YOU USED TO SLEEP HERE INSTEAD OF IN YOUR BED.
WE'VE BEEN USING THIS SOFA FOR A LONG TIME NOW, HAVEN'T WE?
.....

SO I WOULD STAY DOWN HERE TO COOL OFF.
WE DIDN'T HAVE AN AIR CONDI-TIONER ON THE SECOND FLOOR BACK THEN,
Sweat
Sweat
Z
Z
GUESS I'LL GO TO MY ROOM AND SLEEP
IT'S TOO HOT TO SLEEP NEXT TO SOME-ONE
BUT WHENEVER I SLEPT ALONE, BEFORE I REALIZED IT, KISHI ENDED UP SLEEPING NEXT TO ME
AH...
Flinch
Ahhh!!

Slam
Thud
Thud
THANK GOOD-NESS
BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T THERE
T-THANK
WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM JUST NOW?
WHAT HAP-PENED?
EVERYBODY DISAPPEARED AGAIN...
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE SCREAMING IN YOUR SLEEP AGAIN
PAT
DON'T WORRY WE'RE NOT GOING TO LEAVE YOU WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, OKAY?
IS HE SICK?
WHY WAS KISHI CRYING JUST NOW?
FATHER ?
Slam!
FA...

WELL, YEAH! THAT'S ONE WAY TO SLIM IT UP
I THINK HE'LL BE CURED ONCE HE BECOMES AN ADULT THOUGH
IT'S AN ILLNESS THAT DOESN'T LET HIM SLEEP ALONE
BUT I CAN ALREADY SLEEP ON MY OWN
KISHI'S PAST IS THE CAUSE OF THAT ILLNESS THOUGH
WHEN HE WOKE UP HIS PARENTS HAD DISAP-PEARED
SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED
I'M SORRY THAT YOU HAVE TO SHARE A ROOM WITH ME
IT'S OKAY
WHEN HE OPENS HIS EYES AND DOESN'T SEE ANYONE, HE STARTS TO HAVE A PANIC ATTACK.
SEEMS LIKE IT HAPPENS WHENEVER HE'S TAKING A SHORT NAP, TOO.
UWAAH !!
Jump
HE OFTEN COMES TO CHECK UP ON ME
I'LL LEAVE THE CURTAINS TO YOU THEN
GOOD NIGHT
OKAY
ALTHOUGH HE CAN'T SLEEP ON HIS OWN
HE HASN'T COME BACK HOME ONCE SINCE HE MOVED
un-
zip

Queen of the Night
I WONDER HOW I SHOULD RETURN IT...
SINCE IT WAS SO SCARY, I HAD TO HIDE IT.
Flip
Flip
Queen of the Night
I'm so hungry ...
Queen of the Night

IF I TALK ABOUT IT TO SOMEONE, THEN I FEEL LIKE MOM AND DAD REALLY WON'T COME HOME ANYMORE. I CAN'T TALK TO ANYONE ABOUT IT.
BUT,
press
Glue
Hhh
Tha-bump
Tha-bump
Tha-bump

Slide
!
MORNING
YOU START PEEPING FIRST THING IN THE MORNING ?
I BOUGHT SOME BREAK-FAST FROM THE CONVEN-IENCE STORE...
Bump
HEY!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
And in those clothes ...

SLAM
KISHI?
WHAT'S WRONG? AND IN THAT OUTFIT
Sigh
.....
.....
?
BECAUSE YOU WERE CARRYING FURNITURE
I THOUGHT YOU WERE MOVING
I WAS JUST REPLACING THE OLD SOFA WITH A NEWER ONE
GOT IT?
I NEVER HEARD ABOUT THIS

THERE'S BREAKFAST, YOU KNOW? WANNA EAT TOGETHER?
NO THANKS.
I HAVE SOMEONE WAITING FOR ME
YOU MISUNDERSTOOD BECAUSE YOU DON'T COME HOME, YOU KNOW?
SORRY.
OH, IS THAT SO
GIRLFRIEND?
YEAH.
YOU CAN SEE MY VERANDA FROM HERE.
A FRIEND?
NO.

THEY WENT TO GO SEE A PLAY.
THAT REMINDS ME, WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS?
Changes the topic!
AND BESIDES, THAT'S A GUY.
OF COURSE NOT.
THAT'S YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
Plop
HMM
AN ACQUAIN-TANCE WHO SHARES THE SAME INTEREST AS ME
Just drop it!
OKAY, SO WHO'S THAT? A CO-WORKER?
PUSHES
IT'S UNEXPECTED, BUT HE'S PROBABLY A "MALE GIRLFRIEND" OF YOURS, ISN'T HE?

O-OH YEAH.
N-NOTHING, FORGET ABOUT IT!
BLUSH
I WANTED TO GIVE THIS BACK TO YOU.
WHAT?
I'M SORRY FOR HIDING IT FROM YOU.
WOW, THIS BRINGS BACK LOTS OF MEMORIES.
I FORGOT ABOUT IT TOO. SO IT'S ALL RIGHT.
SORRY EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU, I FORGOT ABOUT IT UNTIL YOU ASKED ABOUT THE SOFA.

YOU'RE THROWING IT AWAY?!
I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH THIS, RIGHT?
WITH SUCH AN OLD STORY-BOOK...
EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE,
YOUR MOTHER MADE THIS BOOK FOR YOU,
DIDN'T SHE?
WELL, YES
ISN'T THIS SOMETHING THAT HOLDS A LOT OF MEMORIES FOR YOU?
JUST TAKE IT.
IF YOU THROW THIS AWAY, ALL YOU'LL HAVE LEFT IS YOUR MEMORIES, YOU KNOW?
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST TAKE IT AND TAKE PRECIOUS CARE OF IT?

SEE YA AROUND.
HEY KISHI
COME HOME SOMETIMES, ALL RIGHT?
MY PARENTS HAVE BEEN REALLY LONELY
SURE
WHAT ABOUT YOU, TERU?
AREN'T YOU LONELY, TERU?
I'M LONELY, TOO
ME TOO

IF I COME HERE, MY RESOLVE WILL WEAKEN. SO THAT'S WHY
I CAN'T COME BACK HERE OFTEN.
NOW I JUST TAKE SLEEPING PILLS, AND I STAY FAST ASLEEP ALL THE WAY UNTIL MORNING.
OH...
...ESPECIALLY SINCE WE ALWAYS SLEPT IN THE SAME ROOM.
BUT I'VE DECIDED THAT I'M NOT GOING TO DEPEND ON YOU ANYMORE.
KEEP QUIET ABOUT THIS TO AUNTIE, ALL RIGHT?

When I tried to re-read this book,

SLOWLY KILLING THE CHILDREN BY POURING BOILING OIL ONTO THEM ...
IT'S LIKE THIS BOOK WAS NEVER SCARY TO BEGIN WITH
THE OIL IS DANGEROUS, SO STAY AWAY
IF YOU FALL FROM THE VERANDA —
HIGH PLACES ARE DANGEROUS, SO YOU MUSTN'T GO NEAR THEM.
WHETHER IT'S RIVERS OR OCEANS, THEY'RE BOTH DANGER-OUS,
BECAUSE IT'S DANGEROUS AT NIGHT
SO THAT THE CHILDREN CAN GROW UP SAFELY .
EVEN THOUGH I HAVE SO MANY THINGS
I WANT TO SAY TO KISHI.

TO SETTLE SOME-THING. I GUESS
THAT KID'S REALLY CUTE, ISN'T HE?
YOUR COUSIN?
WHY DID YOU GO OVER THERE?
.....
HEY, YOU KNOW. YOU DON'T EVEN NEED ME AROUND IF YOU JUST CATCH SOMEONE LIKE THAT.
.....
HERE.
THANKS FOR YOUR PATRON-AGE-
HUH?
IF YOU'D JUST DO THAT, YOU WOULDN'T NEED TO PAY MONEY
THIS IS TOO MUCH
YEAH, IT'S FOR THE SERVICE UP UNTIL NOW AND YOUR JOB AS A PILLOW.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME ANYMORE, STARTING NEXT WEEK.

he just casts it aside so easily
BEING LOVED BY SOMEONE MAKES ME FEEL WEIGHED DOWN, SO I'M BAD AT THAT...
BESIDES,
BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T THERE WHEN I WOKE UP.
Even so,
WHY NOT?
HUH
HUH?
IT'S SO COMFORT-ABLE...
Shift Shift
slide
I GUESS EVEN KISHI CAN BE COLD SOMETIMES, HUH

I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO SEE HIM UNTIL HE CAME OVER HERE ON HIS OWN.
SUCH A PITY.
DAMN
BE CAREFUL
THE QUEEN OF NIGHT ALWAYS HAS HER EYES ON CHILDREN, SO
BE ON YOUR GUARD.
END

SECRET STORY

ひみつのはなし

AND WHO WAS THE ONE WHO SAID I DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ANYMORE?
I DID.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
EVEN WITHOUT ME, DON'T YOU HAVE A TON OF OTHER GUYS WILLING TO SLEEP WITH YOU?
OF COURSE I DO, BUT
I'VE TRIED IT WITH THREE DIFFERENT PEOPLE, NONE OF THEM MATCHED WELL ENOUGH
SNORE
SNORE
SNORE
SNORE
SNORES
Really Bad Sleeping Posture
Newbie
IF YOU GET ON YOUR KNEES, THAT IS.
...FINE. I'LL FORGIVE YOU.

IS THAT ENOUGH ?
SHOCK
AND APOLOGIZE TOO
Thud
I WAS THE ONE AT FAULT, HIRA-SAMA.
"YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME ANYMORE STARTING NEXT WEEK."
"BEING LOVED BY SOMEONE MAKES ME FEEL WEIGHED DOWN SO I'M BAD AT THAT."
IN THE END, I SHOOK YOU OFF AND CHASED YOU AWAY WITH SUCH CRUEL WORDS, AND FOR THAT, I'VE REPENTED AND AM TRULY SORRY
SOMEONE LIKE YOU WHO DOESN'T SNORE, WHO DOESN'T STICK TO ME, AND WHO DOESN'T TALK IN THEIR SLEEP IS TRULY A WONDERFUL HUMAN BEING
I—I GOT IT
THAT'S ENOUGH
YOU CAN RAISE YOUR HEAD
I'LL FORGIVE YOU
HE EVEN SAID IT WITHOUT MESSING UP MY NAME

DON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH ME.
BUT I'LL SAY ONE THING...
HAVE YOU REALLY REPENTED ?!
Blush
OF COURSE
AH—
THE BATH'S READY.
DING DING
"DON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH ME"?
WHAT ARE YOU, AN IDIOT?
Do you think you're a comedian?
WHAT'S WITH HIS BEHAVIOR ?
TAKE AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE
Close

YOU'RE WELCOME
THANKS FOR THE BATH
. . .
I'M TURNING OFF THE LIGHTS
OKAY
YOU'RE PEEPING INSIDE THAT OJI-SAN'S HOUSE AGAIN
WHO ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHOM, DOES IT?
……

AH...
AH
WE'LL LEAVE THAT TOPIC FOR LATER.
IT'S FINE. JUST TELL ME
YOU WERE LOOKING AT YOUR COUSIN, RIGHT?
DO YOU LIKE HIM?
DON'T TALK
.....
NN
NHN
HAA!
SHUDDER
AH...
AH...
SLIDE

I DON'T NEED TO COME YET
WHY NOT?
I WANT US TO ENJOY THE TIME SLOWLY
Strike
Twirl Twirl
...BUT IT LOOKS PAINFUL
AHH...
UH...
FULL ...
AAH!
Jerk
Splurt
AH.
NOO...
AAH ...
DON'T ...
Jerk
TREMBLE

Twitch
YOU WOW WERE SQUEEZ-ING ME THE WHOLE TIME
Shudder
HAA
NHN
Shake
HAA...
Twitch
NHN
YOU OKAY?
NHN?
slap slap
UH-HUH
COME A LITTLE CLOSER. I CAN'T MOVE.
IT'S IMPOSSI-BLE TO KISS IN THIS POSITION
.....
Pull Pull
Ow-ow-ow!
HAA
LIKE THIS?
Grab

HEH
HE'S JUST LIKE A LITTLE KID
KISS
KISS
NHN...
IT'S NOT BECAUSE I LOVE HIM OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT
POUR
HERE, COFFEE
THANKS
IT'S THE SAME KIND OF LOVE YOU HAVE FOR A FAMILY MEMBER,
BECAUSE I GREW UP BABY-SITTING HIM
.....
SINCE I WAS THE FIRST CHILD AND ALL
IS THAT SO?
BUT I THINK IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU'D HURRY UP AND LET HIM GO

SINCE I'VE GONE TO THE TROUBLE OF TAKING SLEEPING PILLS, I'LL BE ABLE TO SLEEP
I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
I WANT TO GET A LOT OF TIME IN FOR SLEEPING
THAT'S WHY I SAID NOT TO GLARE AT ME~
DON'T GLARE AT ME WITH THAT FACE!
I MEAN, WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF HE GOT A BOYFRIEND OR A GIRL-FRIEND?
WHY DO YOU HATE TAKING SLEEPING PILLS SO MUCH?
WE HAVE NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT.
Thanks for the coffee.
I JUST DRANK COFFEE SO I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP.
LET'S TALK FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER
OH, I GET IT.
BECAUSE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE ANY DREAMS, RIGHT?

WHEN YOU DRINK MEDICINE TO ACHIEVE SLEEP, YOU'RE NOT ABLE TO SEE ANY DREAMS, RIGHT?
IT'S NOT THAT
.....
WHEN I WAS A KID I WAS MADE TO TAKE SOME SLEEPING PILLS
AFTER THAT, I BUILT UP A RESISTANCE WHEN IT CAME TO TAKING MEDICINE
WHEN I OPENED MY EYES, MY PARENTS HAD DISAP-PEARED
I'VE NEVER HAD A PLEASANT DREAM BEFORE
ON TOP OF THAT
.....
.....

THEN WHAT KIND OF DREAM IS IT THAT YOU SEE?
COME NOW, TERU!
IF YOU'VE NEVER HAD A PLEASANT DREAM BEFORE,
HE'S ALREADY ASLEEP
Snore
OH MY.
ONII-CHAN?"
KISHI-ONIICHAN WILL BE LIVING TOGETHER WITH US STARTING TODAY
SAY HELLO TO YOUR ONII-CHAN
*TN: "BROTHER," OR AN ENDEARING TERM FOR AN OLDER MALE.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
I THEN MOVED INTO MY UNCLE'S HOUSE.
Stomp
Stomp
St
Onii-chan! Onii-chan!
YAAY!
AREN'T YOU HAPPY? YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED A BROTHER.

I KNEW THAT, IF I WERE KICKED OUT FROM THIS HOUSE, THERE WOULD BE NOTHING LEFT FOR ME
NO MATTER WHAT, IT TOOK, I WAS DESPERATE TO SHOW MY AUNT AND UNCLE THAT I WAS HELPFUL TO THEM
ESPECIALLY,
AH... I'M COMING NOW.
BATH!
KISH!!
WHETHER IT WAS CUTTING HIS NAILS, CLEANING OUT HIS EARS GIVING HIM MY SHOES WHEN THEY BECAME TOO SMALL OR PICKING HIM UP FROM THE NURSERY...
YOU'RE SUCH A BIG HELP! I'M REALLY SORRY BUT I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU UNTIL MY EXAMINATIONS ARE OVER
KYAA!
Splash
IF I MADE AN ALLY OUT OF THE CHILD, I KNEW IT'D BE HARD TO KICK ME OUT.
I POURED MY EVERYTHING INTO WATCHING OVER THE SMALL TERU.
MAKE SURE YOU WASH BEHIND YOUR EARS TOO
I AM, I AM~

...EVEN CALMING DOWN A CRYING TERU AFTER HIS LESSONS.
THAT WAS MY DUTY.
IF YOU REALLY HATE IT, WHY DON'T YOU QUIT THE PIANO?
I'LL GO WITH YOU TO ASK, IF YOU WANT
TAKING HIM BACK AND FORTH FROM HIS PIANO CLASS...
SNIFF~
SNIFF~
HICCUP
GOING TO SEE FIREWORKS TOGETHER WITH HIM, TAKING HIM TO THE LOCAL SWIMMING POOL GOING WITH HIM TO THE CHILDREN'S PLAYHOUSE, PICKING HIM UP FROM THE PARK...
TERU ?!
TERU?
.....
WHOOSH
SNORE~
SNORE~

SNORE~
SNORE~
sigh
HEY, HIRA-KUN, WAKE UP
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD IF YOU SLEEP IN THE NUDE LIKE THAT
NHN—

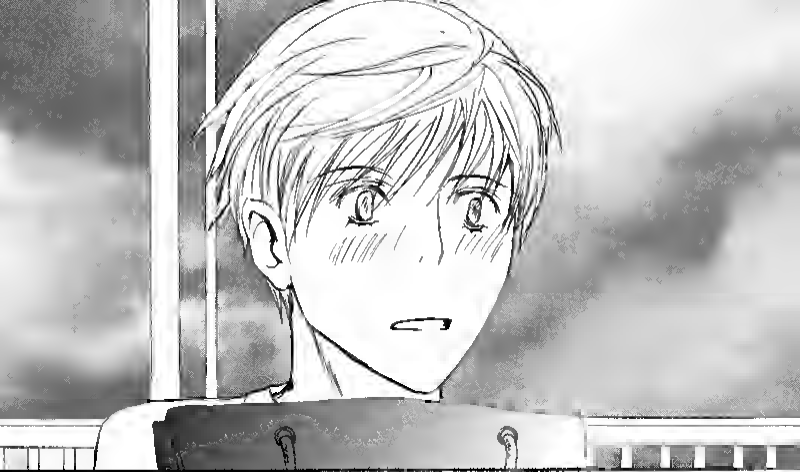
I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT THERE WOULD COME A DAY
WHERE I'D HAVE TO DRESS A FULLY GROWN MAN.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE UNDERWEAR.
SNORE
SNORE~
.....
I WONDER IF HE'S HAVING A GOOD DREAM OR SOMETHING.
HE'S MAKING SUCH A HAPPY FACE
Student Identification
HM?
UN-ZIP
SORRY FOR GOING THROUGH YOUR BAG ON MY OWN LIKE THIS
BUT IT'S JUST SO I CAN GET SOME NEW UNDERWEAR FOR YOU
Tsuzu High School
HUH
SO YOU'RE A STUDENT HUH
I WONDER WHAT SCHOOL
.....
YOU'RE KIDDING

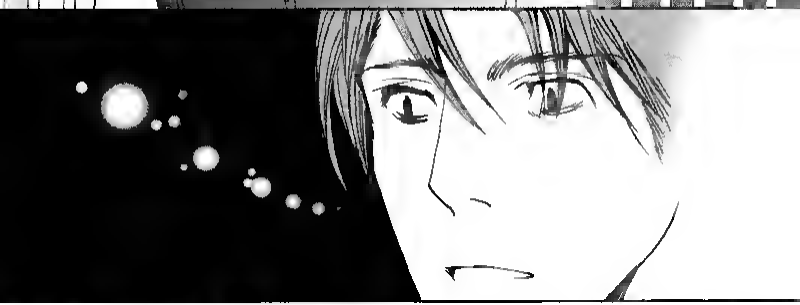
HE'S A STUDENT
AT THE SAME SCHOOL AS TERU ...?
YEAH ?
SO WHAT OF IT?
KEEP IT A SECRET FROM THE STORE, OKAY?
scratch
scratch
THEY'LL ONLY LET ME WORK THERE IF I'M TWENTY OR OLDER
I SLEPT WITH A MINOR, DIDN'T I?
IT'S FINE ISN'T IT?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT, SO FROM NOW ON, JUST PRETEND LIKE YOU STILL DON'T KNOW!
THAT'S NO EXCUSE FOR THIS

LET ME THINK... ABOUT IT A LITTLE MORE...
I SAID IT'S FINE!
LET GO...!
I'LL BUY YOU SOMETHING THAT'S WORTH THE SAME, AND GIVE IT TO YOU AS A GIFT!
I GOT IT!
IT'S FINE, SO JUST GIVE IT TO ME!
IT'S THE STORE'S MONEY ANYWAY!
BUT I'D FEEL REALLY BAD IF I WERE TO CONTINUE TO PAY YOU.
IT'S NOT THAT THE MONEY IS IMPORTANT TO ME OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT,
BUT...
.....
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO PAY ANY MONEY, THEN I COULD JUST BE YOUR BOYFRIEND, YOU KNOW?!
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
Snatch

Whisper
SOME-TIMES
YOU SHOULD PROPERLY GO
ARE YOU PROPERLY GOING TO SCHOOL, HIRA-KUN?
I AM
HEY, LISTEN!
I CAN COME AGAIN NEXT WEEK, RIGHT?
NO CAN DO.
GO AHEAD AND TRY THAT!
THEN I'LL TATTLE ON YOU TO YOUR COUSIN!
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH AGE, RIGHT?
I MEAN, IT'S BEEN GOING REALLY WELL UNTIL NOW
YOU CAN'T
IF YOU COME THEN I'LL TELL THE STORE

!?
HEY!
THEN
SEE YA!
COME BACK HERE!
HEY!
SLAM
!
JUST WHEN I THINK HE'S LIKE A KID, HE REALLY ENDS UP ACTING LIKE ONE
!
DAMN IT
WE'RE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF—
IF YOU'RE COMING BACK, THEN YOU'RE LESS OF A KID THAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE
Open
knock
knock





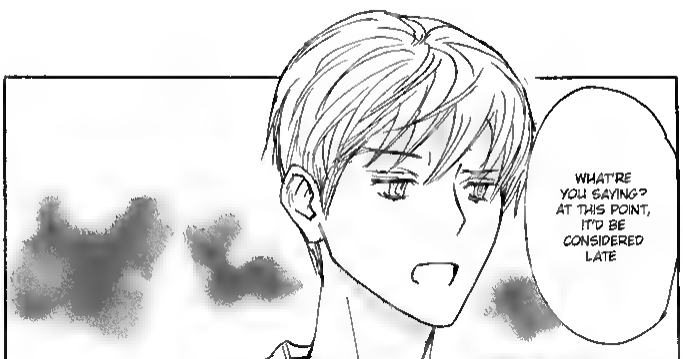
THIS IS FROM MY MOM. THEY'RE SUMMER SWEATERS AND SHIRTS THAT SHE WAS ABLE TO GET HER HANDS ON FROM A BARGAIN SALE.
OH, YEAH... THANK YOU...
COME ON IN.

WELL...
SORRY. YOU SEEM BUSY.
NO.

TERU...
WERE YOU WAITING FOR SOMEONE?
NO...

STUDENTS FROM THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL.
YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT YOU'RE BUSY ON THE WEEKENDS OVER THE PHONE.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN INSIDE SINCE YOU MOVED HERE.
...TERU'S NECK IS A LOT MORE SLENDER.
S-sore
AHH
AH
IT MUST BE A PAIN TO MAKE FOOD, RIGHT?
BUT I GUESS IT'S MORE COMFORT-ABLE LIKE THAT.
I JUST WANT TO BE WITH HIM.
MOM SAID TO AT LEAST COME OVER FOR MEALS SOMETIMES.
IT'S OKAY. I WON'T GET WORKED UP OVER TERU.

HE'S STILL ONLY A KID.
BY THE WAY, I WANTED TO ASK A FAVOR.
COULD I BORROW THAT GRAY LINEN JACKET OF YOURS?
I'M GOING OUT WITH A GIRL FROM MY CLASS THIS SATURDAY.
!!!
I'LL BE SURE TO HAVE IT CLEANED BEFORE I GIVE IT BACK
.....
"IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH AGE, RIGHT?"
PLEASE ?
I-ISN'T IT A LITTLE TOO EARLY STILL
FOR YOU TO BE GOING ON DATES ?


WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? AT THIS POINT, IT'D BE CONSIDERED LATE

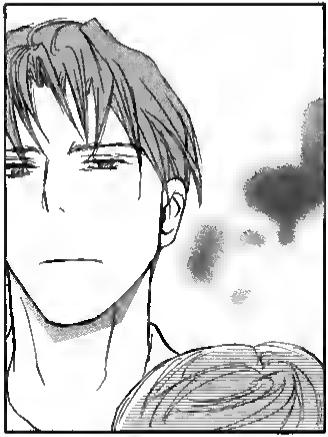
OH, WHAT, SO SHE'S NOT YOUR GIRLFRIEND YET?
I SEE...
HAHA...

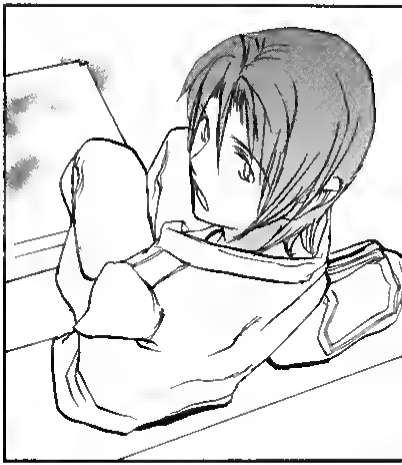
A FRIEND OF MINE SAID, "HOW LONG ARE YOU PLANNING ON STAYING SINGLE?" AND INTRODUCED ME TO HER...
BEFORE I REALIZED IT, HE HAD SET EVERYTHING UP.

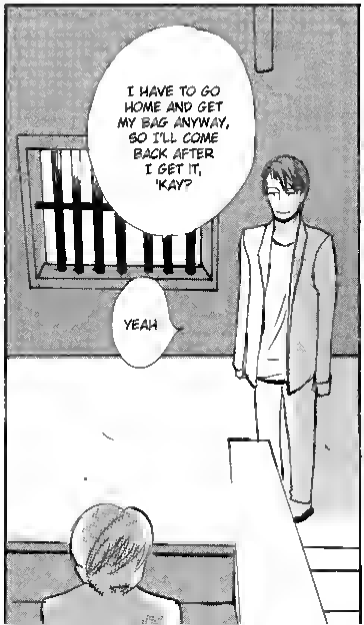
I THINK THIS WHITE ONE WOULD LOOK BETTER ON YOU THOUGH, TERU!
YOU SAID THE LINEN JACKET RIGHT...?

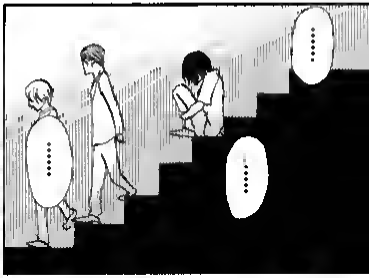
OH.
THIS ONE LOOKS GOOD, TOO.

DON'T LOOK DOWN ON A WORKING ADULT
I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY
SO, DO YOU WANNA GO OR NOT?
TERU
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO ON A DATE?
THANK YOU...!
I'LL GO! OF COURSE I'LL GO!
WANT TO GO ON A PRACTICE RUN?
RIGHT NOW, I MEAN
BUT THEN WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TALK WHILE THE MOVIE IS PLAYING, RIGHT?
I THOUGHT WE'D GO SEE A MOVIE OR SOMETHING
I WONDER IF IT'D BE OKAY FOR ME TO GO BACK NOW
HE SHOULD'VE CHEERED UP BY NOW






I HAVE TO GO HOME AND GET MY BAG ANYWAY, SO I'LL COME BACK AFTER I GET IT, 'KAY?
YEAH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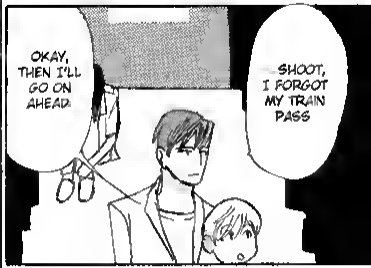

SHOOT, I FORGOT MY TRAIN PASS
OKAY, THEN I'LL GO ON AHEAD

♪
HEY
I...
Shudder
I THOUGHT...
I SHOULD APOLOGIZE, SO...
IF I WAITED HERE...
Drip
Drip
YOU NEED TO CRY ABOUT C'MON...
IT'S NOT SOMETHING...
I GOT IT...
I WON'T TELL THE STORE
AND YOU'LL BE FINE IF WE BOTH KEEP THE AGE THING A SECRET, RIGHT?

I WANT TO COME TO YOUR PLACE NEXT WEEK, TOO!
JUST THAT IS USELESS!
IF I CAN'T, THEN……
……
I'LL COME OUT AND SAY IT! YOU'RE NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS JOB
YOU SHOULD START GOING TO SCHOOL
HIRA-KUN.
YOU SHOULD STOP SELLING YOURSELF LIKE THIS
DON'T COMPLAIN LIKE THAT TO YOUR PARENTS WHO ALLOW YOU TO ATTEND THAT SCHOOL
THE LEVEL CAP IS LOW, SO I NEVER FELT LIKE WANTING TO GO…
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT IT'S JUST SOMETHING STUPID
ISN'T THAT A GOOD SCHOOL ANYWAY? (SINCE TERU GOES THERE…)

EVEN WHEN I WAS ONLY THREE, I WAS ALREADY IN INTENSIVE STUDIES AT SCHOOL...
MY PARENTS ARE REALLY STRICT...
I THINK THAT DEFINITELY BECAME TRAUMATIC
MY PARENTS SAID BECAUSE I DIDN'T GO TO THE SCHOOL THAT THEY CHOOSE...
I'M THE ONE PAYING THE SCHOOL EXPENSES
THEY WOULDN'T PAY THE TUITION FEES
wipe
BECAUSE I QUIT MY PIANO CLASSES...
I SUPPOSE SO
a photo of the piano...
IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN IT'S EXTRA WASTEFUL FOR YOU NOT TO GO TO SCHOOL, RIGHT?
IF I GO TO SCHOOL,
CAN I COME HERE?

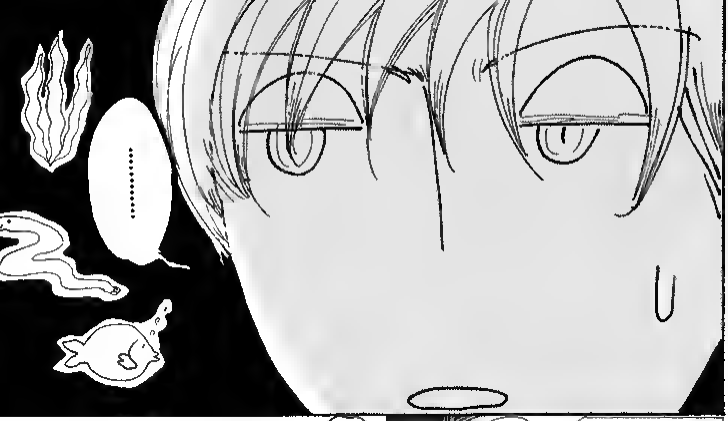
GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED
.....
ALL RIGHT
THEN
I'LL SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!
THANK YOU!

AH!
EH?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU'VE BEEN SPACING OUT.
Dazed
TERU!
TERU!
YOU'RE DROP-PING FOOD.
plop
plop
DON'T PUT THE KNIFE IN YOUR MOUTH.
TERU,
AH—
Chomp
YEP
THE DATE—
.....
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T DO IT AFTER ALL—
OH! THE DATE?
SATUR-DAY?
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE DURING THE REAL THING ON SATURDAY.
REAL THING?

Don't do it
Don't do it
Don't do it
TERU,
THAT WOULD BE RUDE TO THE OTHER PERSON.
In a mentoring voice.
YEAH...
TRUE, BUT...
BUT IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID, IT MIGHT BE TOO EARLY FOR ME...
FOR ME, GOING OUT WITH YOU IS SO MUCH MORE FUN.
ALL RIGHT.
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...
AHEM...
WELL, I SUPPOSE SO
THEN WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO AFTER THIS?
OR THE FERRIS WHEEL ON ODAIBA?*
THE DISNEYLAND PARADE?
*T/N ODAIBA IS AN ARTIFICIAL ISLAND IN TOKYO BAY
YOU KNOW WE DON'T HAVE TO KEEP TRYING OUT PLACES FOR THE DATE ANYMORE, RIGHT, KISHI?
OF COURSE I KNOW~!
END

未来には

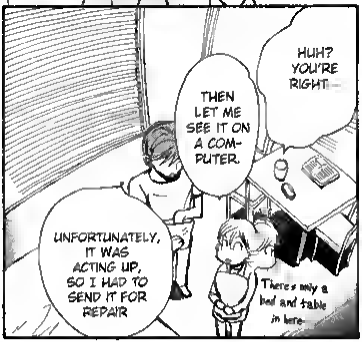
"DON'T REGRET IT"? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
AS IF I WOULD
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU
I'D BE HAPPY IF YOU WANT TO STAY OVER, BUT DON'T REGRET IT, TERU.
COME ON IN
WHAT ABOUT WORK, KISHI?
I'VE ALREADY DONE MOST OF THE WORK ALREADY, SO I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING I NEEDED TO BRING HOME
IT'S BECAUSE YOU SAID THAT YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO SLEEP BY YOURSELF UP UNTIL NOW
TERU,
YOU KNOW I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF TRYING TO BECOME INDEPENDENT, RIGHT?
IF I JUST GO HOME LIKE THAT, ALL MY EFFORTS WOULD'VE BEEN FOR NAUGHT
I GUESS SO
IS OOLONG TEA ALL RIGHT WITH YOU?
OH, SO YOU'RE FREE THEN
THAT PRETTY MUCH MEANS I CAME JUST TO BE A SLEEPING COMPANION FOR HIM
Twist
MOM'S BEEN REALLY TORN UP ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE YOU YOU KNOW
THANKS
IF YOU'RE FREE THEN, COME HAVE DINNER AT MY HOUSE


.....

I DON'T HAVE A TV IN HERE
WHAT!?
BUT IT'S ONLY NINE O'CLOCK
THERE'S A SHOW I WANT TO WATCH!

IF YOU WANTED TO BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT, WOULDN'T YOU NORMALLY MOVE SOMEWHERE FURTHER AWAY?
HERE'S A TOWEL, TERU!
GO WASH UP IN THE SHOWER.
Mumble
Mumble
He chose to move across the street.
Apartment
House

OVER HERE, WHAT WE DO FOR FUN IS USUALLY THINGS LIKE READING OR TALKING
GO ON NOW, GO WASH YOURSELF UP.
HERE, YOU CAN OPEN UP A NEW SHAMPOO BOTTLE


HUH? YOU'RE RIGHT.
THEN LET ME SEE IT ON A COMPUTER.
UNFORTUNATELY, IT WAS ACTING UP, SO I HAD TO SEND IT FOR REPAIR
There's only a bed and table in here.

...BUT ISN'T THAT LONELY?
I GUESS KISHI'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO LIVES A SIMPLE LIFE USING NOTHING BUT HIS IMAGINATION
KISHI LEFT HIS TV AND RADIO BACK IN HIS OLD ROOM, SO I THOUGHT HE HAD BOUGHT NEW ONES.
NOW THAT I TAKE A CLOSER LOOK, HE DOESN'T HAVE AS MUCH AS A RADIO IN HERE.
When I went to have dinner with Kishi today,
...OF COURSE I'M LONELY.
AREN'T YOU LONELY, TERU?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
HE'S WORKING PART-TIME FOR ME
YEAH
...ARE YOU ASKING THAT GUY WHO WAS SITTING ON THE STAIR-CASE EARLIER TO DO THAT?
THE SLEEP I GET FROM MEDICINE IS TOO DEEP
I DON'T EVEN DREAM
He said that he couldn't sleep peacefully unless he had someone to sleep next to.

P-PART-TIME PART-TIME?
FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
I'D DO IT FOR FREE, YOU KNOW
HAHA.
HAHA.
AHEM.
HAHA.
JUST WHEN I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU'D SAY
Haa
YOU CAN'T DO IT, TERU!
IF IT WERE JUST "NORMAL" SLEEPING, THEN YOU'RE A BIT TOO OLD FOR THAT
Annoyed
WHY CAN'T I DO IT?!
THAT GUY WHO WORKS PART-TIME FOR YOU IS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LIKE ME TOO, ISN'T HE?!
WHY DO YOU KNOW THAT?
SORRY— I EAVES-DROPPED A LITTLE BIT BUT I DIDN'T HEAR EVERY-THING

IT WASN'T ON PURPOSE
OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT I JUST HAPPENED TO
I'M SORRY
THE SMILE ON KISHI'S FACE VANISHED.
THE MOMENT I SAID THAT,

LIGHTS OFF
Excuse me, everyone...

...ALL RIGHT YOU CAN COME AND STAY OVER
BUT DON'T BE SORRY WHEN IT DOESN'T TURN OUT TO BE "NORMAL" SLEEP
Dim
CLAP CLAP
In anticipation of the live piano performance, we'll be turning down the lights.

CREAK
PHEW
THANKS FOR THE SHOWER.
DO YOU MIND IF I HAVE SOME MILK?
AH
EH?
I'M OKAY WITH TONIGHT
BECAUSE MY ATTENTION WAS ON THE PIANO, I COULDN'T MAKE OUT WHAT IT WAS THAT HE SAID.
ANYTIME IS FINE WITH ME
I'VE ALREADY OVER-COME MY FEARS OF THAT STORY-BOOK BUT
A LIVE PIANO PERFOR-MANCE LIKE THIS
UH
YEAH
ALL RIGHT THEN
I'LL COME AND STAY OVER TODAY
I STILL CAN'T STAND
AMIDST THE DARKNESS, I COULD SENSE KISHI LAUGHING.

DID YOU GROW TALLER AGAIN, TERU?
YEAH.
IT'S BECAUSE I DRINK MILK EVERY MORNING AND NIGHT!
Hoh
I SEE
COULD I BORROW YOUR HAIR DRYER?
THERE'S ONE IN THE CLOSET
I'M GOING TO GO TAKE A SHOWER MYSELF.
YEAH.
I KNOW, I KNOW.
Click
GET INSIDE THE FUTON SO YOU DON'T GET COLD.
HE'S TREATING ME COMPLETELY LIKE A CHILD.
"SO I WON'T GET COLD"?
WHAT AM I, A LITTLE KID?

OH YEAH, THERE WAS SOMEONE WATCHING ME ON THE VERANDA THAT OTHER TIME.
.....
WHOA...
COOL BINOCULARS.
SO HE HAD SOMETHING LIKE THIS, HUH.
Wow, the moon's so big!
I'LL TAKE A PEEK AT MY HOUSE TOO.
.....

TERU?
I TOLD YOU TO GET INSIDE THE FUTON,
BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT WEARING MUCH, DIDN'T I?
Jump
HM?
MOM AND DAD WERE JUST KISSING!
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO CALM ABOUT THIS?!
THEY'RE A CLOSE, MARRIED COUPLE, AFTER ALL.
OF COURSE THEY'D DO SOMETHING LIKE KISSING

HEY.
JUST NOW, YOU WERE MAKING FUN OF ME AND THINKING WHAT A KID I AM, RIGHT?
YEP.
Heh
SEE?
IF THE RELATIONSHIP IS GOOD, THEN YOU'D BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE KISSING.
YOUR HAIR SMELLS JUST LIKE HIS.

AH...
AH.
NHN.
NNH...
NHN.
I'M SO HAPPY, HIRA-KUN
NHN.
Slide
FUU.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I ASKED UP UNTIL NOW...
YOU ALWAYS SAID THAT YOU HATED HAND-CUFFS
HEH
NHN...!

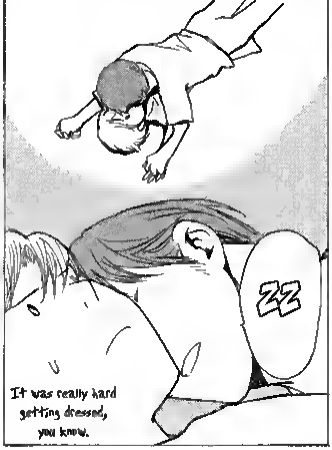
Vrrr
Vrrr
NN...
YES, JUST LIKE THAT
GO IN A CIRCLE, JUST LIKE THAT
kiss
LICK IT JUST THE WAY YOU WANT IT DONE TO YOU...
JUST LIKE A COCK-TEASER.
Vrrr
NHN...
NHN...
Twitch
Twitch
JUST LIKE THAT TONIGHT
SINCE WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME
NN...
NHN.
NHN.
kiss
Vrrr
Quiver
SHUDDER
Shy
I WON'T DO ANY-THING MEAN.
SO JUST RELAX YOUR-SELF
NHN ...!
BEING WITH YOU ALL NIGHT LONG IS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE
Rub
Rub

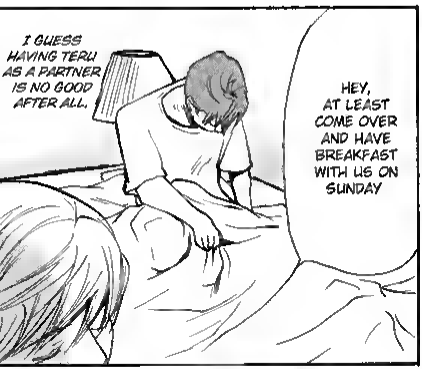
UMPH!
Squeeze
UMPH
slide
HUR...
HURTS ...!
YOUR ASS IS BEING FUCKED BY A VIBRATOR,
AND THE FRONT IS BEING BLOCKED
FEELS GOOD DOESN'T IT?
Vit Vit
NHN.
UNH...
NNHN ...
YOUR STOMACH'S BEEN TWITCHING FOR A WHILE NOW, HIRA-KUN
LIFT YOUR FACE
NN...?
IT'S ONLY A LITTLE RUSH, DON'T WORRY
NHN...

FUU.
THIS IS SO TIRE-SOME.
AAH.
BUT I HAVE TO EARN MONEY FOR SCHOOL.
Side
UUH.
Side
I'LL BE ABLE TO GO ONCE I PAY FOR IT,
SINCE I PROMISED HIM
IS HE NOT ABLE TO SEE ANY DREAMS AGAIN, SINCE HE'S TAKING MEDICINE TO GET TO SLEEP ?
...I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING RIGHT NOW.
THE MOON IS SO BRIGHT

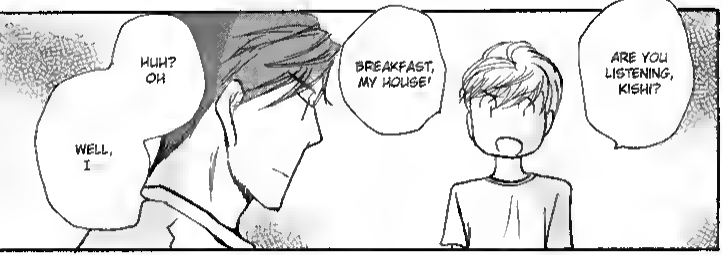
GASP
MORNING...?
HEHE
YOU REALLY SURPRISED ME YESTERDAY.
DID WE HAPPEN TO GO TO SLEEP WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING?
M-MORNING
HM?
MORNING, KISHI

YOU'RE USUALLY SUCH A LIGHT SLEEPER.
I WAS SOUND ASLEEP?

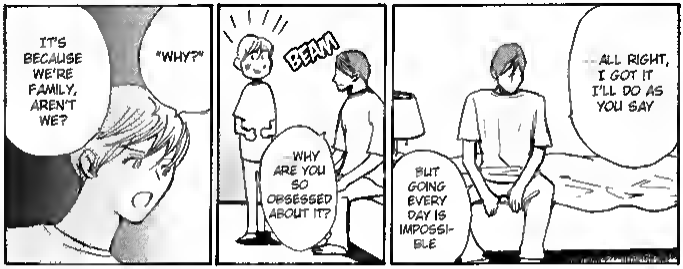

ZZ
It was really hard getting dressed, you know.

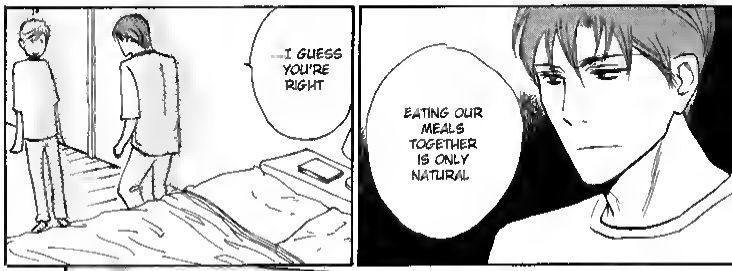

I GUESS HAVING TERU AS A PARTNER IS NO GOOD AFTER ALL.
HEY, AT LEAST COME OVER AND HAVE BREAKFAST WITH US ON SUNDAY

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
...
WAS IT A CONDITIONED REFLEX?


HUH? OH
WELL, I
BREAKFAST, MY HOUSE!
ARE YOU LISTENING, KISHI?

WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING YOURSELF BACK FOR?
"LEECHING OFF YOUR PARENTS A LITTLE BIT IS STILL BEING A GOOD SON TO THEM," WAS WHAT MY JAPANESE TEACHER SAID TO ME
PAYING THEM BACK BY MAKING THEM A MEAL IS EASY ENOUGH, ISN'T IT?
IF YOU DO THAT, THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO STAND PROUD AS A WORKING ADULT.

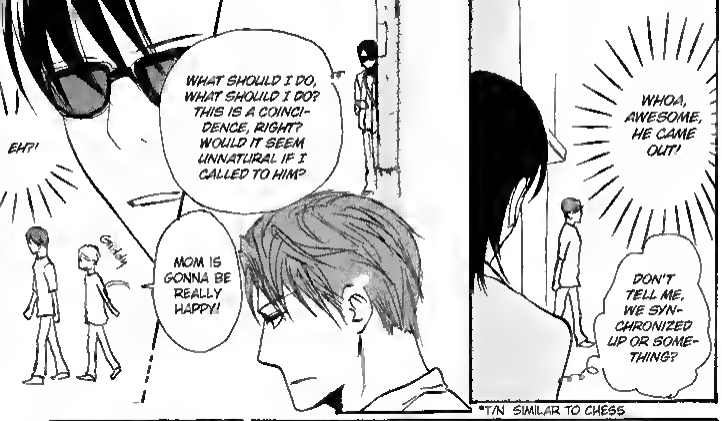

ALL RIGHT, I GOT IT I'LL DO AS YOU SAY
BUT GOING EVERY DAY IS IMPOSSI-BLE
BEAM
WHY ARE YOU SO OBSESSED ABOUT IT?
"WHY?"
IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE FAMILY, AREN'T WE?


I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
EATING OUR MEALS TOGETHER IS ONLY NATURAL

DO NOT CROSS

I WANT TO GO HOME AND REST
.....
MY BODY HURTS ALL OVER
I GOT AN EXTRA TIP FROM THE NORMAL CHARGES, DIDN'T I?
THAT'S RIGHT
IF I JUST DO IT FOR ONE NIGHT, THEN I CAN EASILY EARN THIS MUCH
"YOU'RE NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS JOB."
WHOA, THAT'S A HUGE AMOUNT!
WHO WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT NOT BEING FIT FOR THIS JOB?

EVEN THOUGH I JUST SAW HIM YESTERDAY..
..I REALLY WANT TO SEE HIM.
IF I SEE HIM, I KNOW MY FATIGUE WILL MELT AWAY.
JUST GOING TO SEE HIM SHOULD BE FINE, RIGHT?
NO.
I'LL BE FINE EVEN IF I DON'T SEE HIM!!
PUT ON
wobble
?
.....
"DON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH ME."


EH?!
WHAT SHOULD I DO, WHAT SHOULD I DO? THIS IS A COINCIDENCE, RIGHT? WOULD IT SEEM UNNATURAL IF I CALLED TO HIM?
MOM IS GONNA BE REALLY HAPPY!
WHOA, AWESOME, HE CAME OUT!
DON'T TELL ME, WE SYNCHRONIZED UP OR SOMETHING?

*T/N: SIMILAR TO CHESS

I'M REALLY NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS JOB
THE NEXT TIME I COME...
I'LL MAKE IT THE LAST
If I don't, then it'll just become more painful...
YOU'RE QUITTING?
WAIT A SECOND, THEN WHAT ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL TUITION?
YOU'RE GOING TO QUIT SCHOOL?
THAT'S ANOTHER SUDDEN TOPIC
I WANT TO BECOME LIKE YOU
LIKE ME?
YOU KNOW
I WENT AND KNEELED DOWN TO MY PARENTS
AND I BEGGED THEM TO PAY FOR MY TUITION FEES

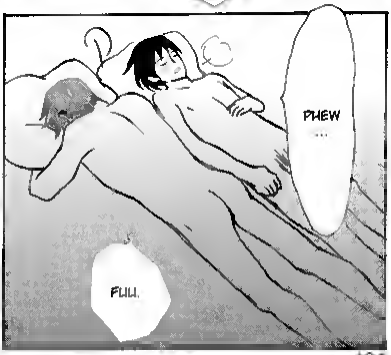
"IF YOU DO THAT, THEN I'LL GIVE IN TO YOU FASTER," WAS THAT I SAID TO THEM.
IT FELT AS BAD AS ALL THE HARD-SHIPS I'VE ENDURED UP UNTIL NOW!
I SEE...
...I'M GLAD.
THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY THIS TIME.
FLOP
IT'S THE LAST TIME...
SO I'LL DO IT FOR FREE, AS THANKS FOR EVERY-THING UNTIL NOW.
YOU'LL GO BACK TO BEING JUST A NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT?
YEAH.
I CAN'T CONTINUE DOING THIS FOREVER, YOU KNOW?
THERE'S NO FUTURE IN IT, RIGHT?
...YEAH

I BET A LOT OF GUYS WILL CRY WHEN YOU RETIRE, HIRA-KUN
THIS IS THE END
SO YOU'RE EVEN GOOD AT FLATTERY, HUH?
OF THIS
IT'S NOT FLATTERY

I ONLY SPEAK THE TRUTH, AFTER ALL.
THIS FUTURELESS RELATIONSHIP OF OURS.
YEAH.
OF COURSE YOU DO
AH...
NHN...
AH.
MHPH.
Thrust
Slurp
NHN.
Thrust
Thrust
Thrust
AAH.
Thrust
HAA.
HAA.
Shudder
DON'T DO THAT!
IF YOU RUB IT, THEN I'LL--AH!
Rub
Squirt

DON'T WORRY. I'LL LET YOU COME AS MANY TIMES AS YOU WANT.
Squelch
AAH!
Squelch
AAH!
NHN...

YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT THIS, SO I ALWAYS END UP COMING FIRST, AND IT'S ALWAYS A LITTLE BIT FRUSTRATING.
IF AN AMATEUR DID IT LIKE THIS, THEN I DON'T THINK I COULD STAND IT.


PHEW ...
FULL.

I DID SERIOUSLY THINK ABOUT DOING IT WITH HIM ONCE, BUT...
WHAT ABOUT THAT COUSIN OF YOURS?
YOU'RE KIDDING
I'VE NEVER DONE IT WITH AN AMATEUR BEFORE
IT'S BECAUSE YOU LOVE HIM, ISN'T IT?
.....
WHO KNOWS ?
BUT I THINK IT'S DIFFERENT FROM YOUR KIND OF LOVE.
ONCE I HAD HIM PINNED DOWN, I COMPLETELY FELL ASLEEP
IT WAS NO GOOD
HMM...
AT ANY CASE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND IT UNTIL...
YOU BECOME A LITTLE MORE OF AN ADULT...

...WHAT, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'D MAKE ME COME AS MANY TIMES AS I WANTED?
.....
I WONDER IF YOU'LL BE MAD WHEN YOU OPEN YOUR EYES AND SEE THAT I'M NOT BY YOUR SIDE.
SINCE I STILL HAVE SOME LINGERING FEELINGS FOR HIM, THIS IS FOR THE BEST

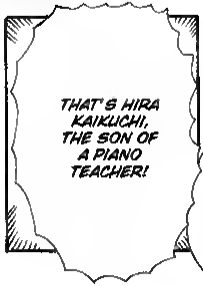
TERU?
NO, IT'S NOT HIM
I'VE SEEN THOSE CLOUDED EYES BEFORE
HIRA-KUN...?
WHEN I WOKE UP...
HE WENT HOME WITHOUT EVEN LEAVING A NOTE?

I WAS ONLY ABLE TO GIVE HIM ONE THING...

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, BUT...

SINCE HE SAID HE DIDN'T WANT MONEY,
I THOUGHT I'D BUY HIM SOMETHING AS A PRESENT INSTEAD

IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE THEN.
IN ORDER TO HIDE THE MONEY PROBLEM FROM HIS PARENTS, I SETTLED THE DEBT.
EVEN IF I ASK THE PEOPLE DOWN AT THE SHOP, THEY WON'T TELL ME HIS ADDRESS.


THAT'S HIRA KAIKUCHI, THE SON OF A PIANO TEACHER!

AND I THINK ONE OF HIS PARENTS WORKS AS A PIANO TEACHER.
HIS GRADES MUST BE REALLY BAD BECAUSE HE RARELY GOES TO SCHOOL.

THE ONLY THING I REMEMBER ABOUT HIM IS HIS LONG HAIR.
THE PERSON I MET ON THE STAIRS?
IN THE END, I TRIED TO ASK TERU.

I REMEMBER HEARING THAT FROM SOMEWHERE, BUT ONCE I LOOKED INTO IT, I FOUND OUT THAT HE'S "THAT" HIRA KAKIUCHI.
HIS DAD'S A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, AND HIS MOM TEACHES PIANO.
EVEN THOUGH HE NEVER COMES TO CLASS, HIS GRADES ARE EXCELLENT.
He's a year older than me, but he's a celebrity.
If it's this street, then I know it really well.
Once you get off, you make a left.
It's not very far from our house, huh.
Kakiuchi Piano Institute
and the campus is right by the road.
You ride the bus for two stops.
I OFTEN USED TO
THAT ROSE ARCH SURE HASN'T CHANGED
SINCE BACK THEN

Heh
OR THE TERU THAT STOOD PERFECTLY STILL AT THE FRONT GATE..
WHETHER IT WAS THE CRYING TERU,
PASS THROUGH HERE WHILE HOLDING TERU'S HAND.
I'LL BE PASSING THROUGH THIS ARCH ALONE,
BUT TODAY IS THE FIRST TIME
WHILE LETTING GO OF TERU'S HAND.
END

Afterword

Hello My name is Meiji Thank you so much for picking up this book

This book stands as two books one about kan-chan and the other the Queen of the Night but a lot of the images I got for the Queen of the Night were from a local bookshop that's the most memorable thing about this I also received other help with this work

~always alone

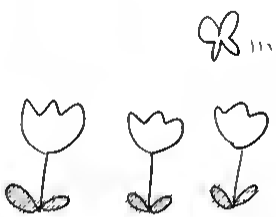
When the memories get too deep I don't want to remember (the pain goes deep) My editor Tantou-san resigned after this project. which makes the memories all the more moving

When it comes to kan-chan the stories I always draw and the stories I want to read don't match. so this is a rare story in that I managed to match them together it's fun when stupid couples just get along together with no other meaning
But that made the story more challenging what you want to read and what you can draw are different things it's difficult

I'd like to write it if it was really short~!

I'd love it for us to meet again

Meiji Kanato



http://trunk.pupu.jp/index.html

BAMBOO COMICS

REIJIN selection

地獄行きバス

◆

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